

Israeli jets raid Hizbollah bases

NABATIYEH (AP) — Israeli warplanes attacked guerrilla bases of the Hizbollah in South Lebanon and the foothills of Mount Hermon Wednesday. Security sources said they had no immediate reports of casualties. They said the two-minute air strikes at 6 p.m. (1500 GMT) targeted Iqim Al Tufah, Hizbollah's key redoubt in the south, and bases near 'Ain Al Tineh on Mount Hermon's slopes in the western sector of the Bekaa Valley. It was the first air attack mounted by Israel since U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher began his current peace-promoting trip to the Middle East Sunday. The sources, who requested anonymity, said, two fighter-bombers fired rockets at Jabal Al Rafid and veered eastward to bomb the 'Ain Al Tineh bases. Lebanese army positions close to the stricken areas opened up with anti-aircraft guns, but no hits were observed as the planes snuck across the border, releasing red hot air balloons to deflect surface-to-air missiles. The sources said the air strike was minor, falling within the sphere of almost daily skirmishes on the common border, the only active Arab-Israeli war front.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، بالرائي

King restates support for Yemen

SANAA (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has reaffirmed Jordan's support for unity and democracy in Yemen in a verbal message carried to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh by Jordan's Ambassador to Yemen Faysal Rabie, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The King said Jordan supported the Yemeni people's efforts for reconstructing what had been damaged as a consequence of the recent conflict in the country. The King said that Jordan was keen on strengthening Yemeni-Jordanian relations. Meanwhile Aden Mayor Taha Ahmad Ghazem ordered residents of his battle-torn city on Wednesday to turn in their weapons to police or face legal action. Yemeni authorities have been struggling to restore normalcy in Aden, capital of a short-lived breakaway southern state which was defeated when the city fell to northern forces on July 7. Arms are plentiful in Aden and looting had been rampant especially in the aftermath of the northern victory. Most government offices were ransacked and private property was also stolen. The Aden security authorities warned people against buying stolen goods or risk legal action for complicity with the thieves.

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Jordan hosts historic trilateral meeting

Majali, Christopher and Peres meet near Dead Sea for landmark talks

Speeches underline beginning of era of peace

Accord reached on Jordan Valley development plan

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

SOUTH SHUNEH — Jordan and Israel on Wednesday held the first round of "historic" economic talks that brought Israel Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to the Kingdom on the first public visit of a high-ranking Israeli official since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The plenary session of the fifth meeting of the Jordan-U.S.-Israel trilateral economic committee was opened by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali in his capacity as foreign minister, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Mr. Peres, who described as historic the talks which will end after a second session at the experts level today.

"... The striking fact is that this is the first time they (Dr. Majali and Mr. Peres) have) publicly been able to meet, and publicly been able to bring their great talents (and) work together. This is the true meaning of today," Mr. Christopher told Jordanian, Israeli and other journalists at the Dead Sea Spa Hotel.

Dr. Majali said: "These moments... will be recorded in the annals of history in black letters, for they separate at the edge between peace and war, construction and destruction, and even life and death."

"Our trilateral meeting symbolises the dedication of the concerned parties to wage peace," Dr. Majali said in a speech at the plenary session of the meeting, which was agreed on during talks His Majesty King Hussein and other officials held in



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali shakes hands with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher (center) and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at their historic meeting near the Dead Sea on Wednesday. (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Washington last month... "It took us 15 minutes to fly over. It took us 46 years to arrive to this time and place of peace and promise," said Mr. Peres, who arrived to Jordan in a helicopter that took off immediately after dropping him a few hundred metres from the Dead Sea Hotel.

Describing his visit to Jordan as a realisation of a dream, Mr. Peres cited the

meeting in Jordan, which was suggested by the U.S. over a year and a half ago, as an example that difficulties in the face of reaching peace can be overcome.

"Mr. Ministers, the distances you have travelled to be here today are small. But the history you make by your presence is great. To a troubled world you send forth a simple message that... peace between Arab and Jew can

be made," Mr. Christopher said in a speech at the plenary session of the meeting.

In a final communique read out by Mr. Christopher at the end of the session, the three parties said they agreed to work on a master plan for the development of the Jordan Rift Valley and to continue to work on trade, finance, banking, tourism, civil

(Continued on page 7)

King meets Christopher, affirms talks with Rabin will serve peace

HM voices pride in support of majority of people in quest to end decades of conflict

U.S. secretary praises King's courage, vision

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday that he hoped his scheduled meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would underline the Kingdom's commitment to Middle East peace and improved conditions for the people in the region.

"I hope that this reaffirms our total commitment to the cause of peace and a better future for our people, for all people in this region," the King said.

In a joint press conference at the end of two-hour consultations with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the King noted that Jordan had embarked on "very serious negotiations" and that he was encouraged by what had been achieved already.

"We are determined to move ahead and I believe that my meeting with the president and Prime Minister Rabin will enable us to shepherd the peace process forward, through our commitment, to the same objective," the King said.

Armed with the support of the overwhelming majority of the people in Jordan, the King said, he will be "moving towards the breaking of a new dawn."

"I am proud of the reaction of the overwhelming majority of people in the country, their maturity and their trust," the King told reporters at the Royal Court.



His Majesty King Hussein shakes hands with the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the outset of a meeting held at the Royal Palace on Wednesday (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

"As you know, we are moving with hopes that we are close to fulfilling a very dear objective — the establishment of a just, comprehensive and durable peace in this region," King Hussein said.

Secretary Christopher told reporters that King Hussein "deserves great credit for his courage in moving decisively ahead in this way (peace)."

"Through his courage and his leadership, I think King

Hussein once again demonstrated what we have long known — that he is a man of great vision, dedicated to moving forward the interest of not only his own people, but the people of the region and especially the cause of peace," Mr. Christopher said in an opening statement before taking questions from the press.

He said that by taking bold steps towards peace, both Jordan and Israel "are genuinely transforming the landscape here in the Middle East."

(Continued from page 2)

Assad says Syria wants peace process to succeed

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — President Hafez Al Assad has told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that Syria wanted Arab-Israeli peace talks to succeed, his spokesman said on Wednesday.

Jonbran Koureih told Reuters the Syrian leader also presented views which Syria believes would achieve real progress in Syria's negotiations with Israel.

He gave no details but said: "President Assad affirmed that Syria was looking forward to making the peace process, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, a success."

Mr. Christopher met with President Assad on Tuesday after meetings Monday in Israel. He credited Mr. Assad with being "very serious about making progress" towards a peace treaty, but said the unresolved issues remained complex and intertwined.

Mr. Christopher, touring the region to further the 33-month-old Middle East peace process, will return to Syria on Friday after a visit to Israel to brief Israeli leaders on the Syrian issues.

Syria's talks with Israel are stalled over the issues of future ties between the two countries and Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Israel has offered to withdraw from the plateau over eight years provided Syria commits itself to full normal relations, including exchange of embassies and trade. Syria says the withdrawal must come first.

Mr. Christopher told reporters on Tuesday after

more than five hours of talks with Mr. Assad that he presented latest U.S. thinking on the problem to the Syrian leader.

He described the talks as useful but held out little hope of a quick solution.

"We are still in the process of a very difficult negotiation. The issues are complicated and inter-twined," Mr. Christopher said.

A government newspaper said Mr. Christopher's mission hinged on his ability to put the "slogan of a comprehensive peace into force."

"This requires a full Israeli commitment to the bases of the peace process and the implementation of U.N. resolutions as comprehensive peace could not be attained without a full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands," said Al Thawra daily.

The newspaper said that Israeli intransigence had "brought peace talks to a standstill."

Mr. Christopher also indicated he had brought no new initiatives to Damascus from Israel, where he met twice Monday with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and separately with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

"There are very few new ideas under the sun," Mr. Christopher said. "There are different ways to approach old ideas, that's really what we are engaged in at the present times."

After a two-hour opening session, Mr. Christopher said the issues dividing the two countries were proving hard to resolve, though on other fronts "the landscape has changed."

In comments released on Wednesday, Mr. Rabin called for a peace settlement with Syria based on a phased withdrawal from the Golan Heights alongside step-by-step security measures.

"With Syria we have to follow the path we took with Egypt," which signed peace accords with Israel in 1978 and a peace treaty in 1979, Mr. Rabin said in an interview with the Italian weekly Panorama to be published on Saturday.

He said by the time Israel had completed its withdrawal from the Sinai desert in 1982, the two countries had normalised relations with open borders, an exchange of ambassadors, trade and tourist relations.

"We will do our best to reach peace (with Syria). But there will be no peace without security," he said, stressing Israel wanted the chance to see that ties had been normalised before completing a withdrawal from the Golan.

Mr. Rabin did not say if Israel would evacuate all the Golan.

The issue of sovereignty was "linked to the issue of a withdrawal and therefore to peace," he added.

But he stressed that the strategic plateau, which commands access to Damascus and overlooks Israel, smaller in size than the Sinai posed "huge security problems."

"That is why we want detailed security agreements, including the deployment of (international) observers like those that were deployed in the Sinai," he said, adding that U.S. troops were also stationed there.

PLO wants 'real' clout; Qouriea barred from Jerusalem

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is demanding real authority to pass laws in the West Bank, chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said here Wednesday as the two sides ended a second round of talks with Israel to extend autonomy.

"We don't want emaciated authority. We need real authority. If we can't get real authority we don't want early empowerment. (The Israelis) want to make controls apply to all spheres of early empowerment," Dr. Shaath told reporters.

"In this case it would be better to move straight on to negotiations on an interim accord" on Palestinian self-rule, he added.

He said at the end of three days of talks that there had been "a certain progress."

But he added the Palesti-

nians would "not stick by a power which doesn't give them legislative and executive rights in the education system."

Israel was refusing the Palestinians the right to change existing laws governing education in the West Bank, Dr. Shaath said, "and we cannot accept this."

He said the Israelis were using the education issue as a test case, and "they want to apply the same principle to all the other powers."

Meanwhile, Ahmad Qouriea, the Palestinian economics minister, was banned from attending a gathering in Jerusalem.

"It is very disturbing. The Israelis are acting as if there is no peace agreement between us," said Qouriea, one of the architects of the Israel-PLO accord.

Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin's spokesman, Oded Ben-Ami, said Mr. Qouriea was barred because the conference is being held in Jerusalem, rather than in the autonomous zones, the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"All activities of the Palestinian authority must be handled in Jericho and Gaza," Mr. Ben-Ami said.

Israel has been increasingly sensitive about Palestinian political activities in Jerusalem, viewing every move as an attempt to undermine Israel's hold over the eastern sector that was seized in the 1967 Middle East war.

Earlier this week, Mr. Rabin's cabinet approved a bill to outlaw Palestinian political activities in the city.

The Palestinians have bitterly criticised the legislation that is expected to pass with backing from the right-wing opposition parties. "This is

against the soul of peace. This is a law of blackmail made by the Israeli right wing," Dr. Shaath said Wednesday.

The city's future is to be negotiated when talks on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza begin in 1996.

Mr. Qouriea accused the Israelis of changing the rules despite pledges by both sides to respect the status quo until negotiations begin.

"They are trying to impose changes on the ground, and this can endanger the peace process," he said.

Mr. Qouriea participated in the conference by telephone hookup, telling some 250 investors that 60 per cent of the funding for the seven-year, \$13 billion master plan for the Palestinian autonomy would have to come from private capital.

"We have to rely on ourselves. We have big challenges to fight against unemployment, and start building the infrastructure," he said.

Palestinian business leaders rained the minister with questions, especially about the absence of regulations and laws on investments and marketing.

Under the declaration of principles signed by the PLO and Israel in Washington last September powers are due to be transferred to the Palestinians in the West Bank in five areas — education and culture, health, social affairs, direct taxation and tourism — before an autonomy council is elected to rule the territory.

Israel and the PLO can also negotiate the transfer of other powers before elections take place.

(Continued from page 2)

33 confirmed dead in Buenos Aires explosion

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — Rescue workers, aided by Israeli experts, pulled more bodies from the rubble of a seven-story Jewish community centre Wednesday as hopes of finding further survivors dimmed.

Dr. Alberto Crescenti, head of the emergency medical system, said 33 deaths were now confirmed in the explosion that flattened the headquarters of two Jewish groups on Monday.

Three bodies were removed from the ruins early Wednesday morning, he said. Many of the bodies were still not identified.

An additional 157 people were injured, he said. Four were in "extremely grave condition," said Dr. Florentino Aguirre, director of the

city's clinical hospital.

Jewish groups late Tuesday released a list of 74 people feared buried in the blast, based on information from relatives and friends.

Dr. Crescenti said workers no longer heard voices under the twisted maze of glass, steel and concrete, but were continuing the search around the clock. A team of about 70 Israeli rescue experts combed through the debris Wednesday with sophisticated listening devices and trained German shepherds, straining to detect signs of life beneath the wreckage.

Federal police cordoned off the scene and demanded silence from onlookers so the Israelis, clad in green fatigues, could proceed. Their efforts were temporarily hampered by a brief but intense rainstorm.

Israel has blamed groups backed by Iran for Monday's attack, but Iran denied the charge.

Argentina's Jewish population of 250,000 is the largest in Latin America.

Iranian spiritual guide Ayatollah Ali Khamenei condemned Israel Wednesday as a "terrorist state," apparently responding to Israeli allegations that Iran was involved in the bomb attack in Argentina.

"The Zionist state, which is itself a symbol of state terrorism, has no right to level such charges at Iran," Ayatollah Khamenei said. "The sacred Islamic regime in Iran is beyond such accusations."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin directly accused Iran on Tuesday, blaming extremists with "ideological

and operational links to Iran" for the bombing.

The Iranian foreign ministry denied any involvement in the attack.

Foreign ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi told Iranian state radio "this act resembles the attack carried out by Israeli secret services on a Beirut church."

He was referring to a bomb attack in February on the Zouk Mikail church north of Beirut which killed 11 people.

In Beirut, the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) denied involvement in the bombing.

"We in Hizbollah... deny having any links to the incident of Buenos Aires," the group said.

The Hizbollah statement described Mr. Rabin as "an

international terrorist" and accused Israel of launching a terror campaign against Muslims.

Hizbollah leaders vowed to hit back "anywhere in the world" shortly after an Israeli air raid against a training camp in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley on June 2 killed at least 50 people.

The Islamic Jihad, an underground group operating under the umbrella of Hizbollah, had claimed responsibility for the blowing up of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires in March 1992, killing 30 people.

The group, which released a videotape showing the embassy before it was bombed, said at the time the bombing was to avenge the killing of Hizbollah chief Sheikh Abbas Musawi in an Israeli helicopter ambush

King meets Christopher

(Continued from page 1)

discussions that the president had with King Hussein which involves elements of debt forgiveness and making available certain military equipment to Jordanians.

While refusing to reveal what kind of military aid Jordan was asking for, he said that the decision on military aid "will take into account the risks that Jordan is taking to pursue peace."

"The U.S. is always prepared to assist countries in this region that take risk for peace," Mr. Christopher added.

In answer to a question over why the U.S. had linked assistance to the Kingdom to progress in the Middle East peace process, Mr. Christopher said: "I do not regard the matters as unrelated at all. I regard them as closely connected, and there is a desire on the part of the U.S. to assist those who are working for peace in the region."

"The King and U.S. President Bill Clinton have discussed these matters, and we think that it is very important to support the cause of peace, to support the peace process by assisting those who are involved," he said.

He pointed out that "it takes a lot of courage, it takes a lot of will for countries to throw off the habits of the past, and to move into a new relationship."

"If the U.S. can give some encouragement through (linking assistance to progress) then we definitely want to," Mr. Christopher said.

Asked whether Jordan still insists on linking the signing of a peace treaty with Israel to resolving all outstanding problems between the two countries including the problem of Palestinian refugees in Jordan, the King indicated it was too early in the process to place a timetable on the signing of a peace treaty.

"We have just started, and we are continuing," the King said, making special reference to the problem of refugees as one that has made the Kingdom "the greatest donor of any country in the world in that regard."

"But more than that, what we are talking about is that the people in Jordan are members of our family, they are members of one family and they will continue to be unless any of them chooses otherwise when the conditions permit that," the King said.

"But we are obviously concerned with the situation in Jordan regarding the standards of living of all Jordanians and how to move them from where they are to where they should be in the coming period," the King said.

Pressed again over when was the earliest possible time for conclusion of a peace treaty, the King said: "As far as it is possible, but certainly not next week."

PLO seeks 'real' authority

(Continued from page 1)

Head of the Israeli delegation to the Cairo talks Danny Rothchild said: "The problem is that there are two powers. One of them (the Israeli military government) has to define the main basis of civilian powers."

Dr. Shaath said Israel was seeking the simple application of existing Jordanian law in education in the West Bank.

"But we have the right to have our own laws, because we must have full authority in that area, and in this case we want to unify legislation on education in the West Bank with that in Gaza," he said.

A source close to the

Asked whether it could be in a month or two months, the King said that there was still a long way to go "long in terms of our eagerness to arrive at a state of peace that finally will transfer this entire region, and hopefully, to comprehensive peace."

"As far as we are concerned, the Jordan-Israeli track is moving seriously. We are addressing all the problems that have to be addressed and as we have always suggested, insisted that a peace treaty comes as the crowning achievement of the successful resolution of the problems," the King concluded.

Mr. Christopher also threw off suggestions that King Hussein and Mr. Rahin intended to sign a peace treaty in Washington next week. "I want to emphasise that the Washington event was not intended and will not see the signing of a peace treaty, but we think it may accelerate the movement towards a peace treaty," Mr. Christopher told reporters.

The King also denied that he had any plans to visit Jerusalem in the near future, but added that "I certainly hope that some day before I join those who have preceded me I will be able to pray in Al Aqsa Mosque, which is so dear to me."

"As you know, today is the 43rd anniversary of the passing away of my grandfather, who died in Jerusalem. I was by his side at that time. Jerusalem is a very special place to us and has a very special place in our hearts," the King said.

But on the political level, the King explained that he had been "calling for over a long period of time and what we have been calling for here is to engage in a dialogue and to encourage the inter-faith dialogue to secure the holy sites in Jerusalem a very special status where their sovereignty there will be to the Almighty God only."

Rejecting the Hashemites' wanted sovereignty over shrines in Jerusalem, the King said that he was "talking about an Arab and an Islamic position. What we are calling for is that it be recognised that the holy sites in Jerusalem belong to the Muslim Ummah — to the Islamic World as a whole."

"I think that we have time and again suggested the idea that we hope for the exercise of right in terms of seven schools in the Islamic world in that regard," the King said.

"So we are not seeking only something for ourselves but we are certainly seeking a solution for Jerusalem to make it the essence and symbol of peace between all followers of monotheistic religions," the King said.

Jordan Television

(Continued from page 1)

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LANDMARK MEETING: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali (right), who is also Foreign Minister, with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher (centre) and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the beginning of a trilateral working session at the Dead Sea Hotel on Wednesday (see page one) (Petra photo)

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the beginning of a trilateral working session at the Dead Sea Hotel on Wednesday (see page one) (Petra photo)

Olmert's adviser on Arabs resigns

From the Jerusalem Post

AMIR Cheshin, the Jerusalem Municipality's outspoken adviser on Arab affairs, has decided to resign, and warned Monday that the city will be redivided if its policy towards its Arab residents is not immediately changed.

"I am very worried about the present situation," Mr. Cheshin declared. "If something is not done very quickly to improve the services and treatment of Arab residents, the results will be disastrous," he said.

Mr. Cheshin met on Friday with Mayor Ehud Olmert and told him he was ready to step down, a source close to the mayor said.

Mr. Olmert, who has not been bidden his disapproval of the policies advocated by Mr. Cheshin, "did not try to convince him to stay," the source said.

A formal announcement of the resignation will come after details of his retirement compensation are worked out, the source added.

Mr. Olmert had not dismissed Mr. Cheshin or asked him to resign until now, out of concern he would lose his connections to the city's Arab sector.

But the mayor has been interviewing other candidates for the post, the source pointed out, and a replacement would be found by the end of the month.

It will likely be one of several senior General Security Service officers under consideration, the source said.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Cheshin confirmed that he was stepping down.

"I have nothing personal against Olmert. Professionally, I gained much respect from him over time," Mr. Cheshin said.

"At first I was upset when he did not consult with me. But then I saw that it was nothing personal, but just his way of working. It was not as if he was consulting someone else instead of me," Mr. Cheshin said.

Greater political power must be given to the city's Arab residents, "by setting up more community councils in Arab neighbourhoods," Mr. Cheshin said.

1,000 die in fighting in Sudan as talks begin

NAIROBI (AFP) — At least 1,000 people have died and thousands have fled in a new round of fighting between rival factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the Bar Al Ghazal region of southern Sudan, a senior Sudanese churchman announced here on Tuesday.

The apostolic administrator of Rumbek Diocese of southern Sudan, Bishop Caesar Mazzolari, said heavy fighting has been going on in Bar Al Ghazal, a new front in the war, between SPLA leader John Garang's forces and rival Riek Machar's SPLA-United fighters since the end of June.

The statement said there had been an orgy of looting in the region by both forces, started in Warrack county. First it was Col. Garang's main SPLA which attacked the county and its surrounding villages on July 3, looting household goods, livestock and anything that could be carried away, as well as abducting several children and women, Bishop Mazzolari said.

On July 5, SPLA-United's deputy leader Kerubino Kwanyin Bol, assisted by his faction's other commanders and 2,000 soldiers, attacked the county's villages again, taking over Mayen Abun and holding it until July 14.

Before moving out with a reinforced force of nearly 5,000 fighting men, they too looted whatever remained from the earlier looting, the Roman Catholic cleric said.

The long conflict culminated in fierce battles on July 13 at the villages of Turalei, Maper, Awieng, Majok, Penyok and Mayen Abun in which over 1,000 people died, the majority of whom

were civilians, the bishop said.

Many other people fleeing, both soldiers and civilians, drowned when they tried to cross the Lol River, currently swollen due to long rains.

"The tragedy is far from over. The fighting will continue over the possession of these villages, as both sides wait for reinforcements," the bishop warned, adding: "The area is now plagued by the most atrocious conditions of hunger after people lost everything and have nowhere to go but the bush at the peak of the rainy season."

But fighting has apparently died down around the northern Upper Nile town of Nasir, where another SPLA-United faction led by its sacked foreign affairs secretary Lam Akol has recently been reported to be making significant gains against faction leader Riek Machar.

The fighting comes as the third round of peace talks got underway between Sudanese warring forces, at which Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi made a passionate appeal for an end to the bloody civil war in the southern Sudan that has left hundreds of thousands dead and millions displaced or in exile.

The SPLA took up arms against Khartoum in 1983 in an effort to end domination of the mainly Christian and animist south by the Arabised Muslim north.

But internal splits have since weakened the movement allowing the government to recapture a string of garrison towns it had lost to the SPLA in the last 11 years, including Cpl. Garang's headquarters of Kajjo Kajjo near the Sudan-Uganda border, which fell to the government on June 11.

Iran has no official political parties

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Interior Ministry has registered 300 non-political associations but no political party has applied for a permit in the past 12 years. Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati said on Tuesday.

"So far no political party as such has applied to the interior ministry for a licence," Mr. Besharati said in remarks reported by Tehran Radio.

But Ibrahim Yazdi, an associate of former liberal Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, said their party had applied more than 10 years ago but had received no reply from the ministry.

"The Iran Freedom Movement applied before 1984 for a permit and the ministry has not replied yet. We know of other parties who have applied but have similarly been kept waiting," Mr. Yazdi, who served as foreign minister in Mr. Bazargan's 1979 cabinet, told Reuters by telephone from Tehran.

Mr. Yazdi said Iran's constitution did not make freedom of parties' activities conditional on a permit from the Interior Ministry in the first place although the Iran Freedom Movement had applied for one to be on the safe side.

Iran's politics since the 1979 Islamic revolution have been dominated by Muslim clerics organised in loose associations rather than disciplined parties.

Despite some expectations, the economic liberalisation under President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani since 1989 has not led to a flourishing of party activities.

'Libya will not arm IRA again'

LONDON (AFP) — Libya will never support the Irish Republican Army (IRA) "militarily" again, but remains sympathetic to its cause, an aide to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi says in a television interview Wednesday.

"We supported Ireland at the beginning as a national liberation movement. Until the Irish people, Irish movement or the IRA went into a bombing spree in London, then we stopped," said Foreign Affairs Secretary Saad Mujber in the interview broadcast on Channel 4 Wednesday.

"We stopped because of two reasons, moral and self-interest. The moral one is that we cannot agree that we be helpers of those who go out and kill people indiscriminately... to go to London which is not in Ireland and to start killing people, this is something we can never condone... the self-interest one is that we have thousands of Libyan students there (in the U.K.)."

In the interview, cited by the Independent Newspaper, he said: "You can be certain

that at no point in time in the future will we support the IRA militarily."

However, Mr. Mujber, formerly Libya's envoy in Paris and now ranked third in the regime's hierarchy, said that the regime would not supply any new information on its relationship with the IRA to Britain.

Mr. Mujber admitted that much of the information passed to the British government by the Libyans last year describing their relationship with the IRA was bogus.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Amnesty concerned about Yemeni journalists

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International said Tuesday that it fears that 15 journalists and other professionals arrested in Yemen are at risk of torture or ill-treatment. The international human rights group said it had a delegation in Yemen at the time of the arrests on Sunday and Monday. It said the publisher of the Yemen Times, Abdul Aziz Al Sagaf, and journalist Ahmad Al Sufi were beaten during the 24 hours they were detained. "In view of their treatment, we have serious concerns for the well-being of those still under arrest," Amnesty International said in a statement released by its international secretariat.

King reshuffles Moroccan government

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco on Tuesday appointed Driss Jettou as minister of commerce, industry, handicrafts and foreign trade, the information ministry said. In a redistribution of portfolios, the king also appointed Mourad Cherif as minister of finance and investments. Mr. Cherif was named finance minister last Friday to replace Mohammad Sagou. He had served briefly as minister of foreign trade and investments last year. He now takes over investments as well as finance. In the government of technocrats appointed by the king last November, Mr. Jettou was minister of commerce and industry to which handicrafts and foreign trade have now been added. The new appointments make no changes in the political makeup of the government led since May 25 by Abdul Latif Filali, prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. None of the cabinet ministers are members of any political party or of parliament. In a broadcast earlier this month, the king said he hoped to form a government of national union by the end of this year.

Nine die in collapsing mosque in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Nine worshippers died and 20 were wounded when part of a mosque collapsed in Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city, state television reported. Poor construction work was blamed for the disaster, which occurred during afternoon prayers on Tuesday. The television report said the part of the mosque that collapsed was made of mud. Many buildings in Sudan are built with little or no cement because of its high cost.

AIDS on increase in Lebanon — minister

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon has registered 48 new cases of AIDS this year, bringing the total to 251, Health Minister Marwan Hamade said. Eighty per cent of the new cases originated in Africa where many Lebanese work, Mr. Hamade told the national committee for the struggle against AIDS. He said the figure was probably too low because not all cases were reported. The victims included nine children, four of them babies infected by their mothers in 1993. The Lebanese parliament last year introduced obligatory pre-marital health examinations for engaged couples and allocated a \$400,000 annual budget to the fight against AIDS.

U.S. hopes to try two Israelis in fraud case

CINCINNATI (AP) — The United States has asked Israel to extradite two men charged in an \$11 million fraud involving a former General Electric Co. executive who has pleaded guilty to U.S. charges, a prosecutor said Tuesday.

U.S. attorney Edmund Sargus said he does not know whether Rami Dotan, 49, a former Israeli air force brigadier general, and Harold Katz, 72, a lawyer, will be sent to this country for trial. Mr. Dotan is serving a 13-year prison term in Israel, which convicted him in the case in 1991.

"There's been an informal inquiry made," Mr. Sargus said. "It will require the consent of the Israeli ministry of justice."

The former GE executive, Herbert B. Steindler, was indicted with Mr. Dotan and Mr. Katz. They were accused of stealing \$11 million in U.S. military aid between 1984 and 1990 from defence contracts between GE and Israel. The contracts were for jet engines.

The request is informal because the extradition treaty between Israel and the United States does not include the crimes charged against Mr. Dotan and Mr. Katz, Mr. Sargus said. The charges include money laundering, conspiracy, mail and wire fraud, and making false statements.

"I don't want to create an impression that we're unhappy with the Israeli govern-

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Taratara
18:30 News in French
18:45 Monde Fantastique Des Ammurs
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:10 Murder She Wrote
22:30 News in English
23:20 "Mama Is Going To Buy You A Mocking Bird"
23:10 The Mummies Today

PRAYER TIMES

04:47 Fajr
05:39 (Sunrise) Duha
12:42 Dhuhur
16:27 'Asr
19:45 Maghrib
21:16 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624591
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De La Salle Church Tel. 661757
Teressan Church Tel. 622360
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628433

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 775261

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625252

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624325

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664145

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology:

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate to active. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Received by telephone

Amman min (max), temp. 19/32

Aqaba 25/39

Deserts 15/34

Jordan Valley 25/38

Yesterday's high temperatures:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 38, Aqaba 27, Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Rami Mawzi 794788
Dr. Hisham Kar'an 790266
Dr. Khalid Al Maari 794785
Dr. Khalid Al Jibali 740740
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 770336
Al Asma pharmacy 627055
Naroukh pharmacy 626762
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsan pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Al Omani 273032

Al Oudh pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Mahab Al Hijawi 961217

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 602800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 775111
Complaints 775111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 771111
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Aklich Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsan 661714
Shamsan Hospital 661131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muhsen Hospital 6672757
The Islamic, Abdali 6612737
Al-Ahl, Abdali 6616446
Aqaba (RJ) 7710175
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7710175
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 89161115
Army, Marfa 60224050
Queen Alia Hospital 674155
Anal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hilma Modern Hospital (09)99990
Princess Basma Hospital (02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72275
Jbn Al Nafas Hospital (02)747100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:45 New Delhi (RJ)
10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:15 Riyadh (RJ)
16:15 Aqaba (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
17:50 Cairo (RJ)
18:00 New

Murayama declares military constitutional

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama fended off a scathing attack from his predecessor Wednesday and declared that his Socialist Party will no longer claim that the country's military violates the constitution.

Mr. Murayama, however, told parliament that his Socialist-conservative government would pursue a dovish foreign policy, especially over North Korea.

"Please listen to this carefully," Mr. Murayama asked parliament amid frequent heckling. "As long as we keep the defence-only posture and as long as they are kept at a minimum, the Self-Defence Forces are constitutional."

His statement triggered wild applause from both opposition and ruling coalition members of the lower house.

Since the creation of Japan's post-war military in the aftermath of the 1950-1953 Korean war, the Socialists have regarded the forces as violating the pacifist constitution.

Article nine of the U.S.-drafted document bans possession of military forces and their use to settle international disputes. The government has said this does not deprive Japan of the right to self-defence, hence the name of the military.

Mr. Murayama also said he regarded relations with Washington as the cornerstone of foreign policy and would respect obligations under the U.S.-Japan security treaty.

Until the 1980s the Socialists had sought the abolition of the treaty and professed a policy of unarmed neutrality. The surprisingly lively session of parliament pitted the former and current prime ministers against each other, a rare element which underscored the rapidly changing political scene and efforts to bring debate out into the open.

Questioning the prime minister's inaugural policy speech, former Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata delivered a scathing attack against Mr. Murayama, the man most responsible for bringing down his government last month. "How can you scrap basic principles of your party's founding? I must say your government is an irresponsible one created just to keep your two parties in power," Mr. Hata said.

He questioned Mr. Murayama about basic differences between the Socialists and their cold war adversaries, the Liberal Democratic Party, with whom they have now formed a coalition.

Mr. Murayama said it was not a good time to discuss contingency plans over the crisis sparked by North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons programme.

"North Korea's nuclear development poses a grave concern to our nation. And we consider North Korea's (threatened) withdrawal from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as an important issue."

"But with the death of President Kim Il-Sung, (North Korea's) talks with the United States and South Korea have been suspended," he said. "We must place our efforts and emphasis on a peaceful resolution of the issue through dialogue."

Mr. Murayama, who travels to Seoul next weekend for talks with President Kim Young-Sam, said Japan would work closely with South Korea, China and the United States on the issue.

He repeated his policy of seeking national consensus on two other issues — plans to seek a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council and overhauling the tax system.

Popular support for the three-week-old cabinet of Mr. Murayama remains low at 35 per cent to 37.1 per cent, according to two newspaper opinion polls published Wednesday.

The Yomiuri newspaper, the nation's largest circulation daily, said its weekend survey showed a support rate of 37.1 per cent, with 46.2 per cent of respondents disapproving of the cabinet.

It was the second largest disapproval rating for a new cabinet in 30 years, the Yomiuri said.

Congress united behind Clinton, Haiti warned

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — Police raided an opposition coalition party's headquarters Tuesday, witnesses said, as Washington stepped up pressure on Haiti's military regime to surrender power.

Police and armed men wearing civilian clothes raided the downtown headquarters of K-16, fired into the air, roughed up several people and arrested at least one person, said Sen. Turneb Delpe, a coalition spokesman.

The coalition, formed in June, supports exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and has called for the resignation of army chief Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras. One of its leaders is Port-Au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul, who has been in semi-hiding since the army toppled Mr. Aristide's government in September 1991.

Police said they were not aware of the raid and sent three officers to investigate. They arrived more than an hour later, when the party headquarters building was deserted.

Sen. Delpe called the raid "a serious violation of the right of assembly." Sen. Delpe was not present during the raid, but witnesses confirmed his account.

Also Tuesday, a near riot erupted at a Roman Catholic food distribution centre when it was mobbed by about 1,000 people, many who tried to cut in line.

Police restored order to the crowd of shoving people, desperate to get a sack of rice from a private aid group, by swatting them with switches and bats.

In Washington, an administration official said Haiti's military rulers were attempting to engage in a peace offensive aimed at reducing international hostility.

A prime goal has been to win international recognition of the army-backed de facto government in exchange for a vague promise that Gen. Cedras would step down, the official said.

"As best I can tell it's

nothing serious... There is nothing to negotiate about. They ought to leave," the official said, asking not to be identified.

U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager denied any attempts at diplomacy by the military leaders for purposes of stalling the possibility of a U.S. invasion.

"The days of negotiation are over," Mr. Schrager said, adding that Haitian military leaders showed they were not interested in a diplomatic solution when they reneged on a U.N.-brokered pact they had signed in 1992 in which Gen. Cedras promised to resign.

Haiti's generals "are trying to buy time," by raising the prospect of further talks, Mr. Schrager told a news conference. Washington supports the return to office of Mr. Aristide, who lives in exile in Washington.

Foreign Minister Charles David, appointed by the de facto government installed by the military in May, said Monday "we are open to every dialogue, the best being through the United Nations."

Mr. David also said Haiti was opening "several channels" abroad to seek a diplomatic solution but gave no details. A fleet of navy warships carrying some 2,800 Marines is standing by off Haiti. Although the White House said the troops are there to rescue Americans if necessary, President Bill Clinton has threatened to launch an invasion if Haitian military leaders don't step down.

A U.S. congressman met with Gen. Cedras to demonstrate congressional unity with Mr. Clinton's strategy, Mr. Schrager said.

Mr. Schrager said a trade embargo imposed on Haiti to force its generals, pressured by civilians hurt by the embargo, to surrender power was also showing an effect.

The embargo's effect is especially hurting the poor, who are living on borderline starvation in the western hemisphere's poorest coun-

try. The U.S. Coast Guard reported Tuesday the cutter Diligence brought back to port 225 Haitian boat people who chose to return rather than take safe haven at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Coast Guard also picked up 37 refugees in two boats off the Haitian coast Tuesday, bringing to 15,667 the number of boat people interdicted in July, said navy officer Jeff Hall of the Coast Guard office in Miami. Mr. Hall said 170 refugees were picked up Monday and none over the weekend.

The United States is sending 50 military observers to the Dominican Republic border to enforce the embargo against Haiti, according to the Santo Domingo daily Ultima Hora.

Dominican officials have refused to comment on the report, but the newspaper quoted a U.S. government memorandum on the U.N.'s plans to send 88 civilian observers to monitor the border.

The United States, which is seeking to force out Haiti's military leaders, hopes to stop the large quantities of gasoline which continue to be smuggled into Haiti in violation of the embargo.

The memo said that U.S. participation in the observer mission would be made up almost completely of military personnel and led by a U.S. military commander, according to Ultima Hora.

Some 15,000 Dominican soldiers are posted along the border which divides the Caribbean island nations and the Dominican Republic has called on the United States for assistance to keep up with the task.

U.S. special envoy to Haiti William Gray announced last month that the United States was sending helicopters and other military equipment worth \$15 million to the Dominican Republic to enforce the embargo on the military which ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991.

Berlusconi weakened by graft law debacle

ROME (R) — Commentators declared Italy's prime minister Silvio Berlusconi a loser Wednesday after his air of invincibility evaporated in a popular revolt over a decree curbing the power of anti-graft magistrates to make arrests.

As the media tycoon sought to put a positive gloss on a coalition rebellion that forced him to scrap the decree, editorial writers and politicians said his inherently unstable government had also been severely weakened by the debacle.

Many questioned whether the three-party administration now had the cohesion to tackle the major issues that lie ahead, including how to reduce Italy's giant budget deficit.

Francesco Cossiga, a former head of state who has given Mr. Berlusconi modified support, said the insults and threats that flew between coalition rivals in the row boded ill for the future.

"We have a government whose ministers go around calling each other liars and tricksters," Mr. Cossiga told Italian radio.

"The serious problem is that this country has to be governed. After what's happened I don't frankly believe that this government, apart from the goodwill and personal honesty of Mr. Berlusconi, has the political

strength or the desire to do it."

The decree, passed by the cabinet a week ago, removed corruption, bribery and a string of other crimes from a list of offences for which suspects could be held in pre-trial custody.

Faced with popular fury generated by the protests of anti-graft magistrates whose investigations helped topple Italy's corrupt political old guard, Mr. Berlusconi agreed on Tuesday to withdraw the decree.

Having first backed the measure to the hilt, he had to climb down after opposition by his coalition partners from the federalist Northern League and neo-fascist National Alliance threatened to bring down the two-month-old government.

The cabinet will now submit a draft law to parliament on reforms to preventive detention but bribery and corruption will be restored as offences for which suspects are liable to remain in custody.

The defeat was Mr. Berlusconi's first since he entered politics seven months ago. He stormed to victory in March elections, pledging honest government, economic recovery and a no-nonsense approach to running Italy straight from the company boardroom.

"I saw the negative reaction of Italians to the decree and told myself that maybe we were incapable of conveying the right message," Mr. Berlusconi told La Stampa newspaper in a stark admission that his powers of communication had failed him.

He said he had toyed with resigning during the coalition revolt but had decided to remain because "a government crisis would have been a disaster for Italy."

Denying a defeat, he called the cabinet deal "a step forward in the interests of the country" that would allow reasoned debate on the recognised shortcomings of Italy's justice system.

Corriere Della Sera said Mr. Berlusconi had only himself to blame for what it called "the progressive erosion of trust... he could count on at the start" of his premiership.

"If this were the United States, there's no doubt that many people would already be using the words 'lame duck' to describe Berlusconi," it said in an editorial.

In Repubblica, which carried a front-page cartoon of Mr. Berlusconi holding a pistol to his head, the government and its leader had lost domestic and foreign credibility in what it called Mr. Berlusconi's "waterloo."

Leaders, Nobel laureates and rights groups call for Burmese dissident's release

BANGKOK (AFP) — Western leaders, Nobel laureates and human rights groups Wednesday lobbied Burma's military junta to release dissident Aung San Suu Kyi as she marked the start of her sixth year of house arrest. Calls to free Aung San Suu Kyi were sounded in the U.S. Congress, by Burmese exiles in Japan and Thailand, and Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa.

Aung San Suu Kyi was a leader of Burma's democracy movement, which the military crushed in September 1988, killing hundreds and imprisoning protest leaders.

Although she was placed under house arrest on July 20, 1989, Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy overwhelmingly won the May 1990 election, only to see the army ignore the results and clamp down on its opposition.

Several Nobel laureates including Bishop Tutu, former

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Dalai Lama Wednesday published an appeal to Burma's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Committee (SLORC) demanding Aung San Suu Kyi's "immediate and unconditional" release.

The Burmese dissident was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her non-violent drive for democracy, but was prevented from leaving the country to accept the award.

In Stockholm, Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas on Tuesday joined the European Union in condemning Aung San Suu Kyi's detention, which she said was imposed without the right to a trial or defence.

Fifty-three lawmakers in Washington urged the State Department to increase pressure on Rangoon to respect basic human rights. In a labour... denial of freedom of speech and association and

other gross human rights violations continue unabated" in Burma.

"They called for an arms and trade embargo against Burma to be tightened to force the junta talks with Aung San Suu Kyi."

Leaders of Burma's government-in-exile, based in Thailand, echoed Washington's stance in a statement released Wednesday.

They urged the international community "to exert even more pressure on the regime through mandatory arms embargo and trade and investment sanctions, until the junta gives in and joins the mainstream toward democracy and human rights in Burma."

In London, the human rights group Amnesty International said an "international day of solidarity" with Aung San Suu Kyi would be staged in at least 20 countries including France, Japan and



A Port-Au-Prince policeman swings his whip at Haitians standing in line for food in the Cité Soleil slum area of Port Au Prince. Police were called to keep crowds under control as Haitians gather to receive international food donations (AFP photo)

Nigerian workers vow to continue strike as opposition spreads

LAGOS (AFP) — Oil workers vowed Wednesday to press on with a two-week old pro-democracy strike as police reinforced security in Lagos after violent street riots in which at least 20 persons were reported killed and scores injured.

The protests aimed at obtaining the release of Moshood Abiola, assumed to have won the annulled presidential elections in June last year, meanwhile spread in the southwest of the country.

Former Nigerian head of state General Oluasegun Obasanjo told AFP Wednesday that two of his houses and an office had been vandalised Tuesday by demonstrators in Abeokuta, north of Lagos and the capital of Ogun state.

Abeokuta is also the home town of Mr. Abiola. The houses of other former government officials in the town were also vandalised by the demonstrators calling for Mr. Abiola's release from jail where he has been charged

with "treasonable felony", and protesting fuel shortages caused by the striking oil workers who also support Mr. Abiola.

An official of one of the two striking oil unions, the PENGASSAN (Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria), told AFP Wednesday that his union has told its members to continue the strike. "We are fully prepared. PENGASSAN is determined to see our demands met," said Arthur Onoviran.

He said that workers at Warri refinery, with a capacity for 125,000 barrels per day had ignored a call from a local union branch chairman to return to work.

Warri refinery, which supplies the only refinery in the north with crude oil, has been shut down for about two weeks by the strikers.

The pro-democracy National Democratic Coalition (NADECO) told AFP

Tuesday that the military government has accepted all its conditions as a precondition for a "preliminary" dialogue.

The NADECO wants first to meet Mr. Abiola, detained in Abuja, before meeting military leader General Sani Abacha.

But the government Wednesday had not confirmed the NADECO claim of a meeting, which the opposition said could come up this week.

Groups of policemen were stationed Wednesday at strategic points in the economic capital, an AFP correspondent reported.

Banks, filling stations, shops and markets located in the areas where there was violence Monday and Tuesday remained closed in the morning.

The roads were completely empty of traffic as the fuel shortages continued to bite.

'New boy' Tapie slams Euro-deputies

STRASBOURG (AFP) — French tycoon and maverick politician Bernard Tapie launched a full-blooded verbal assault on the workings of the European Parliament as he took his seat in the EU legislature for the first time.

Asked on French television channel TF1 if he intended to resign the seat he won in the June 12 European Union elections, Mr. Tapie said: "No. But I'm going to burst their bubble."

Mr. Tapie, charged last month with tax evasion and fraud over the management of his 13-million-dollar yacht, hinted that French voters had been taken for a ride by candidates.

"Fifty-five per cent of French people voted for the (party) list of their choice," he said. "That means 55 per cent of the French have been taken for idiots by being made to believe that in voting for their list they would send people to parliament to defend their ideas."

"It's not like that. These are people who've been voted in to share out on a five-year rota system the little perks, the chauffeurs, the secretaries..."

Earlier he told AFP, in reference to a La Fontaine fable of incomparable love: "I feel less and less surprised that Europe isn't working... when I see 175 fish and 160 rabbits come together to try to make little Europeans."

On Tuesday morning Tapie made no comment as he forced his way through a media scrum to take his place in the Strasbourg parliament on the first day of its new

session at the head of his Radical Left Movement.

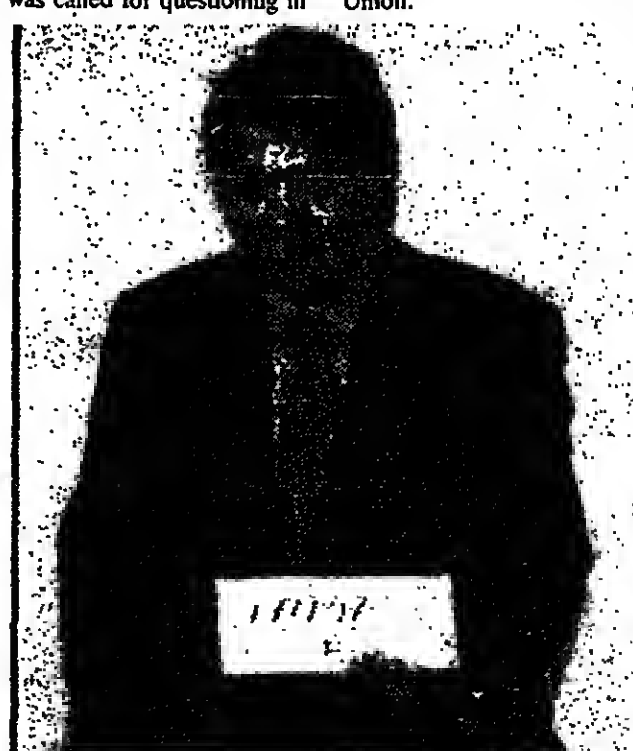
Mr. Tapie, who is also a French National Assembly deputy, was pursued by the press each time he left the chamber, missing his parliamentary group's morning press conference, but finally broke his silence before lunch following the election of German Socialist Klaus Haensch as the new parliamentary speaker.

A day before taking up his Euro-mandate, Mr. Tapie was called for questioning in

Paris over his yacht Phoebe by examining magistrate Eva Joly.

Mr. Joly had charged him on June 29, the day after deputies lifted his immunity in the French parliament. Tapie now benefits from European parliamentary immunity, which will continue throughout his five-year mandate.

Last Friday Mr. Joly eased earlier travel restrictions to allow him freedom of movement within the European Union.



France's new European Deputy Bernard Tapie poses for the photo of his accreditation during the first session of the new European Parliament in Strasbourg (AFP photo)

Stones strut their stuff at concert

TORONTO (R) — It cost less than \$4 to buy a piece of rock 'n' roll history when the Rolling Stones hit town Tuesday night. The British supergroup put on a surprise 90-minute gig at a trendy downtown nightclub as a warm-up to a North American tour to promote their last album Voodoo Lounge. Hundreds of Stones fans — from teenagers to senior citizens — lined up for up to eight hours to buy tickets to see the athletic Mick Jagger strut his stuff. Only about 1,000 people were granted entry and while the ticket price was just \$3.60 some avid fans paid scalpers up to \$145 to see the legendary band perform live. "There's some kids here who probably weren't around when the Stones started but to see them live... I wouldn't have sold this ticket for a thousand dollars," said one thirty-something Toronto fan. The concert was a well-kept secret until mid-morning when an unassuming sign went up outside the RPM nightclub near the city's Lakeshore, announcing: "Rolling Stones, live tonight, 9:30 p.m." For many Toronto rock fans it brought back memories of a similar small-scale impromptu concert by the stones back in 1979. The North American tour officially starts on Aug. 1 at Washington's RFK Stadium and follows the July launch of the new album, featuring the much-played single Love Is Strong. But it was the old hits such as Brown Sugar and Honky Tonk Woman the audience clamoured to hear from the 50-year-old Jagger and the band.

Report: Russians world drinking champions

MOSCOW (AP) — Russians have overtaken the French as the world's heaviest drinkers, with the average man swigging more than 80 litres (21 gallons) of vodka a year, a newspaper reported Tuesday. "The alcohol victory came almost unnoticed, but cost a lot to Russians," the daily Izvestia said. The newspaper cited 1992 statistics — the latest available — as showing that the level of alcohol consumption in Russia reached 14 litres (3.5 gallons) per capita back to 1989 and has been dropping since then. "Our quantitative advantage over France is being further aggravated by the low quality of drinks, the predominance of vodka over wine, and the national tradition of taking shock doses at a stretch," Izvestia said. "Another important factor is that Russians get much worse food than the French to go with a drink." Dr. Alexander Shkolnikov, a demographic expert, told the newspaper that the average Russian man drinks 80 to 90 litres (20.2 to 23.4 gallons) of vodka a year, or almost one half a litre (0.13-gallon) of vodka every two days. The level of alcohol consumption has risen to that of 1984, well before former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev launched an anti-alcohol campaign. Life expectancy for men dropped from 65 years in 1987 at the peak of the Gorbachev's anti-alcohol crusade to 59 last year. "If Russia wants to live, it needs an anti-alcohol policy aimed at stabilisation and eventual decrease of alcohol consumption," Izvestia said.

Panda-like species of kangaroo found

SYDNEY (R) — Australian and Indonesian scientists say they have discovered a new species of mammal, a primitive panda-like tree kangaroo, in a remote part of the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya. The large marsupial, or pouched animal, is boldly patterned in black and white and has a superficial resemblance to China's panda, looking more like a bear or koala than kangaroo, Australian Museum scientist Tim Flannery said Wednesday. "The discovery of such a primitive kind of tree-kangaroo was quite unexpected," said Mr. Flannery, a mammal expert who led the discovery team from the museum and Indonesia's Bogor Museum. "It is humbling — to know that such a large and distinctive animal as this has remained unknown to science for so long," he said. "The newly-discovered species is very primitive in its body-plan and behaviour, spending most of its time on the ground in stunted mossy forest," he said. Mr. Flannery said the animals were not agile climbers and descended trees tail-first, in a human-like way.

دولت اسلامی

Stones strident stuff at concert
TORONTO (AP) — Less than 24 hours after the 1994 World Cup soccer tournament began, a group of Toronto soccer fans gathered at a concert to protest the World Cup. The group, known as the "World Cup Protesters," gathered at the concert to protest the World Cup. The group, known as the "World Cup Protesters," gathered at the concert to protest the World Cup. The group, known as the "World Cup Protesters," gathered at the concert to protest the World Cup.

World News

U.N. food starts reaching Rwandan refugees

GOMA, Zaire (R) — Hundreds of thousands of desperate Rwandan refugees queued patiently for food distributed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at a vast camp north of the Zairean town of Goma Wednesday, an ICRC official said.

U.N. food was also being sent to about 15,000 refugees at two other camps.

A U.N. spokesman said they were the first U.N. supplies to be delivered since the mass exodus of a million Rwandans from the Goma area began a week ago.

Aid workers said they were worried that the strongest refugees as well as the government's Hutu army, which is regrouping in Zaire after being routed by rebel forces, would get to food distribution points while the young and sick would die along the way.

Johanna Grombach, ICRC representative in Goma, said 300,000 Hutu refugees from northwest Rwanda were waiting when ICRC trucks started arriving with 90 tonnes of food at a point two kilometres north of the giant Kibumba Camp.

"It was very orderly," she said, with refugees organising themselves into groups according to their place of origin.

It was the third day of ICRC food distribution at Kibumba, about 25 kilometres north of Goma, an ICRC spokeswoman said, deprecating an earlier statement by a U.N. official that no food had reached the camps.

U.N. and non-governmental aid agencies agreed however that no food had so far reached Munigi camp, about eight kilometres north of Goma, where about 100,000 refugees are existing in appalling conditions.

Reporters have seen dozens of corpses of refugees who have died of exhaustion and disease lying by the roadside.

As of Wednesday morning the bodies of more than 100 refugees who had been killed in stampedes and by mortar fire Sunday were still rotting under the sun near the main border crossing point into Rwanda.

The French army is helping to dig a mass grave, aid workers said.

Panos Mountzis, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told reporters that the first suspected case of cholera had been found.

Dysentery has already broken out but cholera would be an alarming development as it can sweep through camps like a bushfire, killing people in hours.

Water was in desperately short supply, Mr. Mountzis said. He appealed to the international community to send urgently 50 water tanks.

Nineteen aid flights were due to land at Goma Airport Wednesday and 10 had arrived Tuesday, Mr. Mountzis said.

The number was far too small and the amount of food and aid arriving were less than 10 per cent of needs, he added.

"The conditions are appalling. The humanitarian organisations were unprepared to deal with a humanitarian crisis of these proportions," the spokesman said.

Airport unloading equipment sent by the British government had arrived, some of it damaged en route, and this would help ease the airport congestion, he added.

Aid workers who asked not to be identified said they were concerned that the Zairean authorities were going ahead with a plan to set up a separate camp for soldiers of the ex-government's defeated army despite being told by the United Nations and other agencies that they would receive no food aid.

"But if they don't get the food will they come rampaging into town for food?" one aid worker said.

The ousted Hutu government has proclaimed in broadcasts from its mobile radio station that it will regroup in Zaire and invade Rwanda again to depose the government in the capital Kigali installed Tuesday by the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

Thousands of troops have retreated into the Goma area, bearing weapons and artillery. Zairean authorities have tried to confiscate their weapons and have gathered piles in the streets.

Aid workers are also worried that as the refugees divide themselves into regional groups in the camps they will become more easily controlled by the militia and official organisations that launched the genocidal campaign against the Tutsi minority in April, killing an estimated 500,000 people.

This has already happened at Hutu refugee camps in Tanzania.

Apart from the one million refugees in the Goma area, aid agencies are also struggling to cope with a more recent exodus of about 400,000 refugees pouring out of southwest Rwanda into Zaire and possibly 80,000 more moving into Burundi.

Mr. Mountzis said there were an estimated 750,000 refugees within the French-declared safe zone in southwest Rwanda. It is not clear how many are heading for Zaire.

United Nations forces in Rwanda could number 2,000 men by next month, a French government spokesman said Wednesday.

"It appears the U.N. Secretary-General plans on



Two French soldiers unload palettes of humanitarian aid containing food and blankets at the Goma Airport (AFP photo)



Rwanda's new Hutu President Pasteur Bizimungu and his Vice-President Paul Kagame, the Tutsi-led RPF (Rwandan Patriotic Front) commander (right) share a joke in Kigali (AFP photo)

Report: Russians world drinking champions
MOSCOW (AP) — Russia has been named the world's most alcoholic country in a new survey by the World Health Organization. The survey found that Russians consume the most alcohol per capita, with men drinking an average of 15.5 litres of pure alcohol per year and women 10.5 litres.

the possibility of nearly 2,000 men — from Ghana, Zimbabwe, Niger and Canada — at the end of August," spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy quoted Prime Minister Edouard Balladur as telling the weekly cabinet meeting.

Mr. Sarkozy said about 60 UNAMIR (U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda) troops were expected at the end of this month and two companies, totalling 400 men, were expected between Aug. 1 and 6.

France, with about 2,500 men in Rwanda and neighbouring Zaire, is impatiently waiting to be relieved by U.N. forces, who will inherit a catastrophic situation as refugees flood into a French safety zone in southern Rwanda and pour over the border into Zaire and Burundi.

French troops entered Rwanda last month with U.N. blessing to try to halt massacres while awaiting the U.N.'s mustering of its own peacekeeping force, which is to comprise 5,500 troops.

Under U.N. resolutions, the French mandate in Rwanda expires on Aug. 22.

Mr. Sarkozy said Paris wanted close ties with Rwanda's new government which is dominated by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) whose predominantly Tutsi forces have won control of the country and are now in an uneasy face-off with French troops.

Paris was sending both a senior diplomat and a top military figure to Kigali to initiate the ties, he said.

Mr. Balladur said the French intervention was one of the most difficult it had carried out in Africa but that it was successful, according to Mr. Sarkozy.

"It is to France's honour to have intervened... for moral reasons and out of solidarity with Africa and French-speaking countries," Mr. Balladur was quoted as saying.

France wants the new Rwandan government to concentrate on "national reconciliation and the return of refugees," said a spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry, Catherine Colonna.

"We notice a strong RPF presence" in the government, which took office Monday, she said.

"It's a multi-party government but several aspects of it differ from the Arusha agreements," she added, referring to accords signed a year ago by the various parties in Rwanda.

Belgium has appealed to Rwanda's new government to reestablish the trust needed so hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees will return home, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said here Wednesday.

"The top priority is to do everything possible to convince the refugees to return to their country, because the situation in camps around Rwanda is untenable in the short-term," the spokesman told reporters.

Bosnian Serbs take secret response to Geneva

SARAJEVO (R) — The Bosnian Serbs Wednesday took their secret response to the latest Bosnian peace plan to Geneva where they were expected to indicate conditional agreement at a meeting with international mediators.

The Muslims and Croats, who have already agreed to the plan, held talks with the mediators from the five-nation contact group, that drew up the proposed division of Bosnia.

In Sarajevo, the United Nations reported low intensity conflict between Serbs and Muslims on the battlefronts of north-central Bosnia and in the northwestern Bihać enclave, where fighting has dragged on for weeks.

U.N. military spokesman Major Rob Amink said there had been troop movements in the area around Mount Igman, which dominates Sarajevo to the southwest, in the past 24 hours.

French United Nations troops escorted a 26-man Bosnian army patrol out of the demilitarised zone there, while about 100 Serb troops were seen moving out of the area towards the Serb-held town of Trnovo.

The Bosnian Serbs' self-styled parliament reached a decision on the peace plan Tuesday after two days of debate in the mountain resort of Pale, just outside Sarajevo, hot chose not to make their response public.

Instead, they wrote their verdict on a piece of paper and sealed it in a pink envelope, which a delegation headed by Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic took to Geneva to disclose to international mediators.

Serb sources and diplomats in Geneva said the Bosnian Serbs were likely to indicate readiness to accept the plan conditional on a number of conditions being met.

The Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, said it was assumed that the Bosnian Serbs were asking for an adjustment in the map of Bosnia drawn up by the mediators, guarantees that sanctions against rump Yugoslavia will be lifted if the Serbs accept, and clarification of Bosnia's future constitutional arrangements.

Sources close to the Serbs have also suggested they may be pushing for their own seat at the United Nations.

The Serb response appeared to be designed to prolong negotiations on the peace plan despite the fact that the contact group, comprised of the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany — had demanded a definitive, yes or no, reply.

The plan awards the Muslim-Croat federation 51 per cent of Bosnia and the rest to the Serbs, who hold 70 per cent and complain they would have to give up much land.

Bosnia's allied Muslim and Croat leaders met the "contact group" mediators Tuesday and relayed their joint parliament's grudging approval of the plan.

Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic made clear his Muslim-led Bosnian government did not want more talks on terms and conditions.

"We cannot go one thousand times into its and buts," he told Reuters. "Any conditions mean no."

The Serbs have come under intense international pressure to accept the plan, and have been warned they face tougher sanctions and increased military pressure if they refuse.

United States National Security Adviser Tony Lake gave a warning Tuesday that "consequences" could follow a rejection by the Serbs.

The Bosnian Serbs have been told that failure to endorse the plan could mean the end of the arms embargo on the Muslims, but it is unclear whether the international community is ready or able to do much that will force the Serbs to comply.

NATO member Turkey meanwhile urged the Serbs to unconditionally accept the peace plan, saying the United Nations should use force, if necessary, to ensure acceptance.

"Our wish is for the Bosnian Serbs to give a positive answer with no preconditions," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman said.

Indonesia announced it would send military doctors and paramedics to Bosnia as part of the United Nations peacekeeping force. Last October mainly Muslim Indonesia sent 25 military observers to join the U.N. mission.

Meanwhile a U.S. C-141 cargo plane was hit by machine-gun fire shortly after take-off from Sarajevo Airport early Wednesday afternoon, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said here.

The U.N. immediately suspended all humanitarian flights scheduled for the rest of the day.

The plane was hit at around 1:00 p.m. (1100 GMT) while flying at an altitude of some 600 metres (2,000 feet), three kilometres from the airport, the UNHCR said.

Interruptions of aid flights into Sarajevo have been rare since February, when Bosnian Serb forces pulled back their heavy weapons from around the Bosnian capital in line with a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation air strikes ultimatum.

Plane crash kills 21 in Panama

PANAMA CITY (AFP) — A Panamanian commuter plane exploded in the air and crashed into a mountain Tuesday in the province of Colon, killing all 21 people aboard, officials said.

The plane, which belonged to the Alas Airline, burst into two pieces after taking off on a flight to Panama City from the Atlantic port of Colon, Civil Aeronautics director Sosimo Guardia said.

All 19 passengers, including Colon's mayor, and the two crew members were killed, Mr. Guardia said in a press briefing.

The cause of the explosion was not immediately known and Mr. Guardia said there would be an investigation.

Most of the passengers were Jewish and owned businesses in the duty free port city, according to the official.

Authorities said bodies and plane parts were scattered over Santa Rita Mountain about 70 kilometres (43 miles) northeast of the capital.

Dignity that the Nazi criminals stole from our country," Leaders of the Polish and German parliaments met in northeast Poland Tuesday for the first-ever joint homecoming to the man tried to kill Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler here 50 years ago.

Rita Suessmuth, speaker of the lower German parliamentary house, and her Polish counterpart Jozef Oleksy laid wreaths at Hitler's former "Wolf Lair" (Wolfschanze) headquarters at Gierloz in former East Prussia.

The two parliamentary leaders stressed current cooperation between long-time enemies Poland and Germany, saying such a joint ceremony would have been "unimaginable" a few years ago.

"We need to think about a past which we do not wish to wipe out, but today we need to fill our new joint history with concrete projects," said Mr. Oleksy.

Ms. Suessmuth, who also opened an exhibition in Gierloz on the German resistance, said she was "deeply moved to be able to pay homage to all those Germans who fought against the Nazi regime."

"I wish nothing more than to see the Poles and Germans live together in a unified Europe," she said.

Belarus gets reformist premier

MINSK (R) — Corruption-buster Alexander Lukashenko took office as first president of post-Soviet Belarus Wednesday and immediately named a cabinet headed by a market reformer as prime minister.

Mr. Lukashenko, his hand on the Belarusian constitution approved a scant four months ago, uttered the brief oath in the rarely-used Belarusian language, pledging to uphold the country's laws. He vowed to lift his people out of poverty and shore up the country's fragile statehood.

Within three hours the former state farm director, who won a landslide election victory on promises to lower prices and clear out corrupt officials, had proposed a cabinet line-up led by pro-market banker Mikhail Chigir as premier.

"The main task is to ensure a dignified life for our citizens," Mr. Lukashenko, 39, said in a brief address. "God permit that our people feel some relief within the next year."

He said he would uphold individual rights and freedoms and defend the newly acquired statehood of Belarus, a country of 10 million sandwiched between Russia and Poland.

"The only dictatorship that can exist in a state striving for world integration can be a dictatorship of law," he said to warm applause from a packed parliament.

Mr. Lukashenko has said since his victory that the country's coffers are empty and that Russian help will be needed. One of his first tasks will be to oversee a proposed monetary union with Moscow which officials on both sides say cannot be completed as scheduled by next month.

The cabinet list, to be approved by parliament, included new foreign and defence ministers but kept on the finance minister and at least two deputy prime ministers.

"I stand for market reforms. Belarus cannot be an island among states moving towards market reforms," Premier-Designate Chigir, 53, told reporters.

"For the moment, I am for state-regulated prices but this is not a normal procedure. I will pursue reforms."

Stanislav Bogdankevich, a market advocate unexpectedly kept on as Central Bank chief, predicted Mr. Chigir would move ahead with changes. "Lukashenko's programme will be pro-market," he said. "There is simply no other way to proceed."

The former Soviet republic's ambassador to Britain, Vladimir Senko, was proposed as foreign minister to replace Pyotr Kravchenko, who held the job since independence in 1991.

Anniversary of Hitler plot marred by partisan politics

BERLIN (Agencies) — In a Germany striving to become whole after its cold war division, the 50th anniversary of the failed attempt to assassinate Hitler offered a chance to reveal in one shining moment of a troubled history.

Instead, the July 20th observance has become derailed by controversy.

Politicians were still arguing Tuesday over whether to honour the Communists who sought Adolf Hitler's overthrow long before German officers who, considering the war lost and their Fuehrer gone mad, tried to kill him.

Also controversial was Chancellor Helmut Kohl's decision to monopolise the main commemoration Wednesday, to be held in the courtyard where the five chief military plotters were executed.

The main opposition Social Democrats wanted their candidate for chancellor in October elections, Rudolf Scharping, also to be given a chance to speak at Berlin's Bendlerblock, World War II seat of the army high command.

A better alternative, some argued, would be to have President Roman Herzog give the address, thus allowing a poignant date in German history to transcend the politics of the day.

But Mr. Kohl, as chancellor, will have his way.

"The 50th anniversary has become the high point of a long-running argument over who is the rightful political heir to the anti-Hitler resistance," said Regina Holler, a historian and author of the book, July 20, 1944 — Legacy Or Alibi.

The resistance was in fact broadly based and included such Social Democrats as Julius Leber, who would likely have been interior minister had the assassination plot not failed.

For years, Mr. Kohl's Christian Democratic Union has focused on the military plotters led by Col. Claus Schenk Graf Von Stauffenberg, who attempted on July 20, 1944, to blow Hitler to pieces at Wolf's Lair, his headquarters in occupied Poland.

"They neglected the communists. They neglected the Social Democrats and they are still not being democratic about it," said Adolf Von Hofacker, who was 9 years old that day.

His father, Lt. Col. Caesar Von Hofacker, was the conspiracy's lead man in Paris and was among more than 3,000 people executed for roles in it. The bomb Von Stauffenberg planted tore up Hitler's pants but left the Fuehrer unharmed.

Von Hofacker said his father held anti-Semitic beliefs as a young man and was a fervent early believer in

Hitler, along with Col. Von Stauffenberg.

But that should not diminish their role in the resistance, he said, just as the resistance of captured German officers whose Soviet-sponsored National Committee for a Free Germany should neither be diminished nor forgotten.

Von Stauffenberg's son, Franz, recently made headlines by demanding that photos of Wilhelm Pieck and Walter Ulbricht, founders of the East German Communist state, be removed from the Bendlerblock Museum dedicated to the anti-Hitler resistance. Museum officials refused.

Attempts to focus the public's attention on the military heroes of July 20th continued Tuesday with a speech by Defence Minister Volker Paebe at the Bendlerblock, where he opened a new exhibit — "Revolt Of Conscience: Military Resistance To Hitler And The Nazi Regime." A similar exhibit opened in Washington at the Library of Congress last week.

Mr. Ruehe called the July 20th plot "an essential component of the Bundeswehr tradition." The Bundeswehr is Germany's army, the successor of Hitler's Wehrmacht, which provided its postwar core.

Four years after unification, Mr. Kohl's governing coalition is nervous about a

Russia, Estonia fail to resolve problems

HELSINKI (AFP) — Russia said Wednesday that two days of talks here with Estonia had failed to resolve problems holding up the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic state.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin told a news conference after talks with an Estonian delegation here since Tuesday that "some minor things were cleared up, but the meeting fell short of expectations."

Speaking at the airport in the Finnish capital before returning to Moscow, he said the main "sticking point" was over guarantees demanded by Russia on the rights of retired Russian military officers in Estonia.

He added that contacts between both governments would continue in a bid to resolve the outstanding issues.

In Moscow, Russian President Boris Yeltsin insisted Wednesday that the 2,500 troops would remain in Estonia as long as the Estonian government fails to ensure the rights of Russians living there.

He also said Mr. Clinton's plan to require employers to provide insurance to all their workers would not pass in the Senate.

Both leaders seemed at times willing to strike conciliatory notes.

"I am open to any solution to this... but at a certain time, we have to look at the evidence," Mr. Clinton said.

Sen. Dole told the governors: "Health care is too important to be turned into class warfare or a political battle of personalities."

Sen. Dole is author of a less-ambitious plan supported by 40 of the Senate's 44 Republicans that does not require either universal coverage or employer mandate.

And Sen. Dole offered praise to Mr. Clinton and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, for bringing health care to the top of the nation's agenda.

However, afterwards, Sen. Dole said he had compromised about all he could. "There's no kidding anyone," Sen. Dole said. "We're not going to go any further."

For his part, Mr. Clinton said he would cooperate in finding a compromise but he scoffed at the Dole plan. "I'm not for something that doesn't work."

"What works would be universal coverage," he told reporters.

Although Sen. Dole left the room before Mr. Clinton arrived, the event had some of the trappings of a presidential debate. Both took questions from governors.

And Mr. Clinton responded to some of Sen. Dole's points directly during his speech.

"I don't want class warfare. But let's look at the facts," Mr. Clinton said, renewing his insistence that the nation's working middle class stands to lose the most if health insurance isn't made mandatory.

Democratic governors have passed a resolution that Congress guarantee health coverage. But they were silent on how to pay for the plan, undercutting White House hopes for a stronger show of support from Mr. Clinton's former statehouse colleagues.

An ABC News poll released Monday found the public split, 48-48, over whether the U.S. health system needs a major overhaul or just a good tuneup. By a 52-43 margin, those surveyed felt holding down health costs was more important than guaranteeing insurance for all.

Panda-like species of kangaroo found
SYDNEY (AP) — Australian scientists have discovered a new species of kangaroo, a panda-like species of kangaroo, in a remote area of the country. The new species is a small, dark-colored kangaroo, and it is the first of its kind to be discovered in the region. The discovery was made by a team of scientists from the University of New South Wales, who were conducting a survey of the area. The new species is named *Macropus novaeboracae*, after the island of New Bora.

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

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When peace is for all

WHEN THE Middle East peace negotiations started in Madrid in the fall of 1991, there were three Arab delegations: The Syrian, the Lebanese and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. By the beginning of 1992, the Palestinians were engaged separately in their negotiations with Israel without Jordan. And by the summer of 1993, the first breakthrough took place at Oslo in secret talks between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel.

The Arab side attempted on many occasions to coordinate positions and to proceed as *vis-a-vis* Israel. But all coordination meetings among them, whether held in Amman, Beirut, Damascus or Cairo amounted to no more than exercises in futility. Deep divisions among some of the parties concerned rendered even the concept of coordination obsolete. This became too obvious following the Oslo accords which the PLO reached with Israel.

The failure of Arab coordination has roots not only in the negotiations process but also in the absence of broader Arab consensus, the virtual collapse of the Arab League and its institutions and above all in the fact that each Arab side perceived a different agenda from the other.

Two more factors contributed to the problem. The first was Israel's keenness to weaken the Arab bargaining position through separating the Arab sides; and the second was the U.S. insistence on its hands-off policy, which literally invited separation of individual agendas as well.

The lesson from all of this is that Arab coordination, per se, had to fall prey to the peace process itself and to the complexity of the issues at hand.

In the meantime, the best scenario became that the individual tracks would each on their own reach an understanding with Israel until a formula for a comprehensive peace could be found. The ultimate hope became that peace-making developments would proceed at almost the same speed between each Arab party and Israel.

Theoretically speaking, then, each party should conclude its own agreement when an accord is possible to reach and the parties are ready for it. However, taking into consideration Arab sensitivities to separate peace agreements with the Jewish state, it would be only prudent to wait.

The question therefore of whether Jordan would sign a peace treaty with Israel without waiting for the others can only be answered depending on the developments in its own track and on the other tracks. If Jordan feels signing a peace treaty will further the cause of comprehensive peace then it might not hesitate to do so. If, on the other hand, the Jordanian leadership concludes that signing a peace treaty will not be in the service of real peace then it would hold back until such time when it becomes imperative to do so.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WE CAN only be optimistic after hearing U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher say that the Middle East conflict is nearing the end, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. But, said the paper, Israel's intransigence, that was obvious in the Wadi Araba meeting, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's statement that the Jordanian-Israeli talks are bound to encounter difficulties, give rise to suspicion about Israel's intentions. Of course, no one had expected Israel to give up its aggressive policies and usurped Arab land and waters easily, and we can only expect some results from the work of the subcommittees which start their work on Aug. 8, as announced by the head of the Jordanian delegation Fayez Tarawneh, added the paper. The paper said the Jordan believes in a just peace that would ensure the return of all its rights usurped by the Israelis for decades. It is hoped, said the paper, that the meeting opening at the Dead Sea Hotel in the presence of the U.S. Secretary of state would pave the ground for Jordan to secure its rights. It is also hoped, added the daily, that Washington would force Israel to end its blackmail policies and comply with the requirements of a permanent peace.

THE MASSACRE committed by Israel at the Erez checkpoint can only be counted as one more link in a long chain of atrocities which Israel has been committing in the occupied Arab lands, according to Ibrahim Al Absi, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. The massacre committed against Palestinian youth on their way to work in Israel would not be the last, and could undermine the whole peace process, said the writer. He said that the Erez checkpoint massacre reminds us of the Hebron massacre and the other atrocities carried out while the peace talks were under way. Israel's aggressive policies and terrorist actions can never create an opportune climate for peace in the region even though current efforts are being exerted now when the Arab states are in total disarray, added the writer. He said that a permanent peace can only be founded on the basis of justice and respect of human rights, and not through acts of terrorism and massacres.

The View from Academia

The sciences vs the humanities: The vices of school education

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

AMONG some of the more disturbing aspects of our educational system is its exaggerated emphasis on and reverence of the pure or natural sciences on the one hand and its disparaging and reductive view of the social sciences and the humanities on the other. While the former disciplines are seen as extremely fashionable and all-essential, the latter are perceived as somewhat outdated and of marginal or irrelevant value.

This unfortunate bias/prejudice, deeply rooted in our conception of what brings about advancement and progress or what is financially or socially fulfilling, is most immediately noticeable in the structure of our school curriculum, even though its pernicious influence extends far beyond the school years.

At the end of the tenth grade, our students are all requested to declare their intention as to what "stream" of study they wish to enroll in — the scientific, the literary or (most recently) the vocational. Prior to this stage, all students take the same subjects. Beginning with the eleventh grade, however, they split into two main groups (the vocational group is still minor). Those in the scientific stream focus on the natural or pure sciences (math, physics, chemistry, biology), and those in the literary stream focus on the social sciences and the humanities (literature, history, sociology, etc.). Even though there are a few shared topics, the syllabi of the two streams are remarkably dichotomised: students belonging to the literary stream finish the Tawjihi knowing very little about the sciences, and those belonging to the scientific stream finish knowing little about the humanities.

Whenever the time comes for students to make up their mind as to which stream to join, the vast majority (80 per cent at least) of them file applications for the scientific. The reason is not that they feel qualified to do well and excel in the sciences, nor is it that they have a genuine desire to seek a career in science. No. The rationale is A) that "good" students (and almost everyone considers himself a good student) are supposed to choose the sciences and B) that a job in the scientific disciplines guarantees one more money and a better social status. Ask our students in the tenth grade (or even before) about what they want to be, 80 per cent of them at least will say they want to become doctors, engineers, pharmacists, and (recently) computer scientists. Even though most graduates of engineering schools find it extremely difficult to find a job in their specialty and even though the wages of new engineers have dropped sharply, people in our society still adore the profession.

As it stands, our system of education certainly has its own merits. For one thing, it is a good idea to enable students who discover their abilities and talents early on to pursue, as

early as possible, the subjects which they find most interesting and choose the disciplines in which they are expected to distinguish themselves. Some students are talented in math, for example, and they desire to deepen their knowledge of it before they go to college. Rather than take by force literary subjects (on top of what they have taken) which they do not relish, the scientific stream allows them to indulge in more-math. For another, our society is still a developing society. Our need of science and sophisticated technology seems to be a must, if we are to survive in today's world and compete. We are in need of able people who will study science and the most advanced technologies and transfer them to our society and help us integrate to them into our daily lives smoothly. The fact that our educational system encourages many of our most brilliant students to select scientific disciplines fairly early is clearly a step in the right direction. The outcome we have already seen: our doctors, physicists, mathematicians, chemists, dentists, and computer scientists (we are proud to say) rank among the most competent, efficient, and admirable in the world. This is all undeniable.

Nevertheless, I believe that the vices of our educational system, with respect to the matter under discussion, far outweigh its virtues. I shall here raise two of its most salient negative implications.

1. It is extremely unfair to ask students to determine their future career at the age of 15 or 16. Generally, students at this age are still too young and inexperienced to know what their true likes and dislikes are and where their potential and ability really lie. Some may be able to tell at the age of 6 or 7, but most need an ample amount of time to experiment with a variety of subjects and disciplines before they finally select one. In many developed countries, students do not declare a major except in their junior year at the university; some change their specialty completely when they go to graduate school. The problem with our system is that it is a bit too restrictive and prescriptive. I know first hand of many cases of students at our universities who, after one or two painful years in medicine or engineering, found their talent in English literature, Arabic, or business administration. Some of the best graduates in the history of the English Department at Yarmouk were students who transferred from the sciences. But whereas such students can switch majors fairly easily, under our present system, students from the literary stream cannot transfer to any specialty in the sciences. Where is fairness here?

2. The social sciences and the humanities suffer a great deal of prejudice and discrimination in our society. First of all, the disciplines are still looked at by many as easy, unchallenging, unfulfilling, fruitless, pointless, unimportant

or (at best) of inferior status. I have heard it even from highly educated people in our part of the world: who wants history, geography, literature, or sociology? What do they do for us? Such an attitude is ignorant and misguided no doubt, but it is quite widespread. And it is an attitude, secondly, which is encouraged by our present educational system. When students are selected for the scientific stream, they are picked on the basis of academic achievement. Students with the best grades are directed towards the sciences; those who obtain poor grades are asked to join the literary stream. What does this mean? It is obvious here that our educators are telling us that the humanities and the social sciences are decidedly inferior to the pure or natural sciences. This is quite unacceptable.

The solution, the way I see it, is two-fold. First, we clearly need either to modify the system or change it entirely. We want a much less prescriptive and a much more flexible system, one which allows students to take more time in deciding upon a specialty and which offers them more choices. To put it more straight forwardly, there should be one basic curriculum for all students prior to the Tawjihi (with the exception of those who choose vocational training). The curriculum should be composed of core courses in the sciences and humanities for every one, but it should also include a substantial package of elective courses in the subjects students wish to know more about or emphasise more than others. Suppose I enjoy both literature and math. I take all the core courses just mentioned, but I select the electives from the literature and math categories. And so on. In other words, what we have is one stream, not two, but with emphasis on this or that subject.

Secondly, we need to change our society's attitude towards the social sciences and the humanities. The pure or natural sciences are interesting, sophisticated, and vital; but the humanities and the social sciences are equally interesting, sophisticated, and vital. It is time for parents, teachers, and education planners in our part of the world to realise that the humanities need our most intelligent and competitive students as much as the sciences do. Suffice it to say that our daily lives, the peoples of today's Middle East, are being run almost exclusively (especially during these historic days) by political scientists, historians, men of letters, theologians, and journalists; these are the ones who are presently making the big decisions, not the doctors, engineers, pharmacists, or the computer scientists. Is not this somewhat ironic and unfortunate?

It is a big mistake to direct the ex-celling students to the sciences only and the less ex-celling to the humanities, and it is a big mistake to split and dichotomise.

Majali: Jordan has a global vision of peace

Following are excerpts from the address that Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali made Wednesday at the trilateral Jordanian-American-Israeli meeting held at the Dead Sea Hotel:

THESE are indeed vital and critical moments which historians shall cherish and poets shall relish. They will be recorded in the annals of history in block letters, for they separate at the edge between peace and war, construction and destruction, and even life and death.

Indeed, forty three years ago, on this very date, the founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan paid with his own life the price of his vision of peace in the Holy City of Jerusalem at Al Aqsa, the Holy Mosque of Jerusalem. At a time when emotions were running high, and events were dictating violence and warfare, the late King Abdullah was the voice of reason and the statesman who advocated wise judgement. His deep sense of belonging to his Sharifian Al al-Bayt lineage and his strong attachment to this region account for his relentless efforts to achieve a just and honourable peace. It is our duty to cherish his memory by achieving the kind of peace and coexistence that he aspired and worked for.

Our meeting today is neither an accidental, nor a hasty last minute get-together. Men of good hearts have invested life times to make it possible. We should dignify their toil with humanity. In this very place, near the Dead Sea, men of dedication and brave hearts took upon themselves to call for the worship of God, to combat evil and to preach justice, equality and respect of human dignity. This plenary session held in Jordan is the result of the meeting that was hosted by President Clinton in Washington, D.C. between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hassan Ben Talal and Mr. Shimon Peres on Oct. 1, 1993. At that event, Crown Prince Al Hassan presented a global vision of peace that would be based on the conceptual framework of cooperation rather than a mere listing of economic projects. Indeed, the introduction of this concept, which has been absent from our vocabulary in this region for too long, serves to underline the nature of the solid peace that we seek.



His Majesty's vision of peace is one where all parties gain. It is not a zero-sum effort. It is a peace that honours men and women to live in a secure world free from poverty, hunger, and inequality. He has dedicated his life to pursue a defensible peace where rifts are bridged and cooperation is based on mutual respect. Peace, to His Majesty, means building societies where democracy, freedom of expression and pursuit of happiness are

available to all without discrimination.

In less than a week, a major development, that shall capture the fancy of the whole world is planned. President Bill Clinton and Mr. Thomas Foley will host His Majesty King Hussein and Mr. Yitzhak Rabin at the White House and at the U.S. Congress. This truly historic moment should serve as the take-off to a new era in the region where peace and

prosperity shall prevail.

On Sept. 14, 1993 both Jordan and Israel signed in Washington the Common Agenda. That agenda still arouses the admiration of experts for its subtlety, balance and comprehensiveness. It reflected realism by addressing all issues of contention; it embodied hope because it charted a transparent and a tractable course of action; and it radiated optimism by focusing on human needs and aspirations.

The integrity and unity of that Common Agenda is its basic characteristic. While we may apply a step-by-step approach to deal with its articles, it must be implemented in its entirety. Building peace is like writing a book, it is a carefully crafted chapter by chapter, but the book is never complete until all chapters are written and produced.

The successful bilateral meetings which occurred during the last two days in Wadi Araba stand as a witness that our focus should be placed on the substantial issues. The resolution of such issues is an essential part for the success of the peace process as a whole. The movement of negotiations to the region, and in Jordan, is a clear indication of the concurrence

of both Israel and Jordan to go all the way to chart a future not for themselves, but for the whole region.

We in Jordan, under the wise Hashemite leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, have given a lot for the cause of peace. This persistence on the path towards a better future entailed many sacrifices. Every war caused us losses in human lives, mass movements of people into Jordan and loss of territory. We did more than our share in post-war stabilisation at the expense of our limited resources.

We in Jordan believe that comprehensive and just peace should have a human face. The long suffering of the Palestinian people and refugees should be ended and their rights must be acknowledged and fairly dealt with. Security cannot be achieved while millions of Palestinians are denied their legitimate and human rights. The Sons of Abraham, may peace be upon him, are the adherents to the three monotheistic religions. They must resolve the issue of Jerusalem. Sovereignty over the holy places of Jerusalem is only for God and in his name we should respect and honour that right.

Peres: Peace with Jordan is central to Mideast

Following are excerpts from an address made by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the American-Jordanian-Israeli meeting on Wednesday:

"It is time for peace. The people desire it. The land needs it. The Dead Sea, silent and deep, may become a symbol of new life. The Arava desert which, like a knife, cuts the valley in two can become a unifying element, a domain of bloom between our two countries."

The meeting today must remind us of a place, of a date and of a destiny. The place, not far from here, is Guera, north of Aqaba. That is where the younger brother of the late King Abdullah, Emir Faisal Ibn-Husseini, met with the leader of the Jewish people, Dr. Chaim Weizman. It was a first meeting of representatives of two national movements.

Faisal summarised his views in a letter he sent to Justice Felix Frankfurter on March 1919, from which I quote:

"We feel that the Arabs and Jews are cousins in race, having suffered similar oppressions at the hands of powers stronger than themselves... We are working together for a reformed and

revived Middle East and our two movements complete one another... indeed I think that neither can be a real success without the other."

A promising voice in the prevailing wilderness. The date is the 20th of July. The founder and leader of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, King Abdullah, emerged as a man of far-sighted vision and appropriate political judgment. His Kingdom was based on human and Arab values. He introduced a policy that offered peace before war, peace instead of war, peace to end war. He negotiated this policy with some of the Israeli leaders, Moshe Sharett, Moshe Dayan and Eliahu Sasson. Some of these negotiations bore fruit, others saved lives, yet partly they failed in the face of existing suspicions. Nonetheless, they laid a foundation for a unique relationship — hidden and open — between Jordan and Israel: We never forgot the need for peace, even in the gloomy days of open warfare.

King Abdullah was assassinated in front of his young grandson, His Majesty King Hussein. This occurred on July 20th, 1951, the very same day of our meeting now.

The destiny is peace. The silent pledge of the wise King became the destiny of his grandson, His Majesty King Hussein, and the expectations of the disciples of the Israeli leaders, who looked for every opportunity to bring an end to wars, to create a new opening with our neighbours.

His Majesty King Hussein demonstrated stamina in face of uninvited dangers, and he has shown courage in reading impending opportunities. What is taking place today may be the light at the end of the tunnel we have crossed, and may end the swing of the pendulum, which has swayed from the pole of blind hatred stemming from misunderstanding, often created by neither of us, to the pole of political trust serving permanently the needs common to us.

Time has arrived to disperse old shadows. To permit legitimate peace and promising economy to play their proper role in our destinies. Time has come for our families

whose roots sprang from the tent of Abraham, to invite hospitality instead of perpetuating hostility. No more hostages. We can host each other.

The border between Israel and Jordan is the longest we have with any of our neighbours. We can mark it now by mutual agreement, respecting the sovereignty and integrity of each of us.

Peace with Jordan is central to the construction of a new Middle East. The centrality of its location, its impressive civilised and tested tradition, may provide a real advantage for a durable rapport, for a framework of peace and security in the region.

We are now beginning to move, and move openly. Peace needs daylight. The path ahead, the path we shall negotiate, may be full of hurdles and long in distance. But I do not harbour the slightest doubt that we can overcome the hurdles, shorten the distance, and reap early benefits both for our people and for the peoples of the Middle East.

I am convinced that the construction of a new Middle East, will attract investors from all over the world. This

ancient land which cannot be forgotten, may become the new opportunity which cannot be overlooked.

The peace process will not end with the signatures of our political leaders. Indeed only then will it begin. And our target should be, that before the end of the 20th century, we will face a new political and economic landscape. A landscape where borders will be open, where Jordanians will not be stopped at Eilat or Israelis in Aqaba. Where new, sophisticated industries will offer job opportunities to the young generation. Where waterways will cover the brown deserts, and where sea ports and airports will be combined to serve all tourists to visit holy places, to be cured in the hot springs or to view beautiful antiquities. Where the skies will be open to competitive aviation and land distances will be shortened by new railways and highways. Where water and oil will be carried in pipelines laid to answer economic needs rather than strategic worries; and where the electricity systems will be connected to save billions of dollars.

Farmers will then replace

soldiers, greenhouses will come instead of barracks, dunes will submit to plantations.

What was started on the first of October last year in the White House, the trilateral agreement reached between the President of the USA, the Crown Prince of Jordan and myself, and what is happening today, will be crowned in the summit meeting in Washington between President Clinton, His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin. It should become the start of a new era. None of us can permit it to fail, and all of us must make a dual attempt to bring durable peace and promising economy to our midst.

We shall have to demonstrate that a geographic rift has been transformed into an economic backbone and a political divide has become a valley of wisdom.

To cherish the memory of our fallen youngsters is to build the correct future for the youngsters who follow in their ways.

This time history is on our side: We are offered a strong and fresh wind — our sails must be ready.

Weekender



All set for Jerash Festival, but let's not forget the unknown soldiers

By Mohammad Mashariqah

"The Way To Ithaca" is the title of a beautiful poem by Arab poet Constantine Kafafi in which he describes his long trip to a port city where he hoped to meet with beautiful women and indulge in drinking and pleasure. But no sooner he reaches that city, he discovers that it is an ordinary place and rather dull, void of any of his aspired pleasures.

The memory of this poem came into my mind during my work, preparing for "Gerasia Forum" an event which has become an integral part of this year's Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts. I thought of the poem's words while dealing with minute details to ensure the success of the event by providing the necessary facilities — sound and light, rehearsals of the performance, etc.

I look behind now as we approach the festival's opening and I see faces and hear voices of colleagues feverishly preparing for this annual event over the past four months. They are unknown soldiers working in silence and shy away from boasting their skill and their dedication.

In the past weeks, I came across Walid Al Hashim,

the musician, and I found him busily composing his music. "I want to write something that can best embody the spirit of poetry composed by the late Jordanian poet Mustafa Tell, and I want this music to reach the masses," said Hashim. "I find in this verse meanings deeper than any of those reflected in modern poetry and therefore I am working hard to thrill the audience with music, inter-marrying with this poetry."

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

My tour of the Jerash site led me to the lair of Nasser Sharaf, another musician who refused to mix poetry with music at the Gerasia Forum mode. "I am trying to establish the most important music studio in the Middle East, and I dream of new music involving the skills of musicians from Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia," he said.

Coming to the rehearsal studio I met with Director Khaled Tarifi who was preparing for his plays. I found him shouting aloud to the actors and actresses to act with a spirit so as to leave an impression with audience. While working on the play, "You... Not You," he

remembered the directives of the festival's director, Akram Masarweh, who said that the play should steer safely away from three elements: God... sex... and the King.

When I asked how the rehearsals were proceeding, Tarifi said: "We need additional funds for the decor." But I tried to reason with him and make him understand that the festival committee does not have a gold mine, nor is it a government office. It has no funds to spend... as all the available funds were mere donations.

I began to wonder why Jordanians believe that the state should provide everything but I was soon informed that no less than 73 per cent of the people depend on the state for their living — one way or another.

Ali Amiri, one of the six poets to recite their verse at the festival is not interested in the World Cup events and has been focusing all his attention on the kind of music that will accompany his recital. He has now learnt that a female student from a music academy will play the flute and has been reassured that everything is arranged for the poetry-recital's event. Having worked for days with the festival's management I have been



impressed with the dedicated work of the volunteers.

One of those is Suzanne Hawashin, who answers the phone calls, handling queries about the festival from individuals and groups alike.

Another is Damsa Shobaki who deals with all bits and pieces and is required to provide answers to various problems.

Nadiah Atallah, the maestro of the whole operation who handles issues related to guest troupes performing at the festival, such as accommodation at the hotels, transportation to Jerash, etc.

Muna Hawa, another dynamic female volunteer who is in charge of planning, works in silence but with skill and efficiency.

People outside might think that this great event was prepared by hundreds of workers backed by inexhaustible funds. Indeed, it is this handful of volunteers, regarded as the real unknown soldiers, who are dedicated to but well-groomed for the task of ensuring the festival's success.

Demonised by Zionists, weakened by illness, Edward Said remains defiant

Not going gently into Palestine's dark night

By James Woodall

PROFESSOR EDWARD SAID is a gift to contemporary letters. Since his first book on Joseph Conrad some 30 years ago, through his pioneering work on Western attitudes to the East in *Orientalism* (1978), to last year's *Culture and Imperialism*, he has opened up new territory in literary criticism.

Said's terrain is challenging: it covers Islamic cultures often associated in the West with repression and volatility. Combining fierce historical intelligence with polemical gusto, Said offers much deeper readings of the Orient than found in the knee-jerk reactions typical of much Western commentary.

As a professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University in New York, Said is also a gift to America. By birth a Palestinian, Said came to the United States in 1951 as a schoolboy and later adopted American citizenship. He writes about Palestinian affairs for both British and American newspapers: from 1977 to 1991 he was a member of the Palestinian National Council, the PLO's parliament in exile, and for 25 years, he has been volubly critical of United States policy to the middle East, most particularly of its relations with Israel.

Zionism is high in America, and Said hates what it has become — as witnessed to acts such as

Baruch Goldstein's mass shooting of Palestinians in Hebron on Feb. 25 this year. "One poll after Hebron showed that only 30 per cent of Israelis objected to the massacre," Said told me in his New York office. "There's a lot of support for this kind of thing, for people who are moved by religious demagoguery of the worst sort, who think Goldstein is a hero and who are willing to commit massacres. What they could do is quite alarming."

He means what they — Jewish settlers in the occupied territories, mainly — could do, were there to be an outbreak of "lasting" peace in Israel. There is no sign these militant Zionists will give back Palestinian land, that the Israeli government will urge them to do so, or that either will lay down their arms.

In Gaza, by contrast, we have just seen the first steps towards Palestinian autonomy, steps which post-date the printing of Said's latest book, *The Politics of Dispossession* — a collection of essays gathered from 25 years of polemic on the Arab World.

Indeed, since the book has gone to press there has been not only the Hebron massacre, but the PLO's chairman and Israel's premier have signed the peace agreement in Cairo, the Israelis have left Gaza, and Arafat is supposed to be taking up official residence in the West



Edward Said

Bank town of Jericho.

Would Said have added anything in the light of these milestones? "No, not really. The problems I talk about in the book are still there. There's no money, though last October, the World Bank committed itself to donating \$2 billion over five years, which is next to nothing. But there's no one on the ground to receive it. The Gaza police, who are not from the territories but from places such as Yemen and Iraq, don't know what they're supposed to be doing. It's chaos."

This dire picture of a fledgling Palestine is underpinned by two overriding concerns: The setting up of Palestinian institutions; and the empowerment of the people. "If, after years of no political parties, no rights of assembly and no freedom of expression, we end up with a similar situation under our own national authority, there will be a catastrophe."

Said paints a similarly bleak scenario for Israel itself. "Look," he says with startling urgency. "I read what the Israeli press says. There is a strong likelihood of civil war there: it's talked of openly. The right wing and the settler movement overlap with a lot of other Israelis who

support that line. On the other hand, there is a genuine contest within Israel among people who feel the Israelis should pull out. It's incoherent, but it will come to a head."

This sort of sentiment has hardly endeared Said to the American pro-Zionist lobby. He is unabashed. Some rabbis even described him as "the Devil", but that hasn't deterred him from repeatedly emphasising America's problems with the Arab World. "I've visited Israel and the territories twice since 1992," Said says "and if you've had enough years not living in a place you're supposed to be living in, then you can't live there. But in New York I feel quite anomalous."

"I've given up the idea of ever being domesticated here. Many of my friends and associates are New York Jews, but there's still in some quarters a cultural hatred for Arabs which I think is unique to this country."

In his book, he cites the case of Cynthia Ozick, a writer and critic who in the late seventies accused Said of being paid to go to Beirut to plot the murder of Israeli children. More recently she attacked a Palestinian writer, Anton Shammas, for writing in Hebrew; it was pointed out to her, recalls Said, that "what she was saying was completely consonant with the Nuremberg Laws, which forbade Jews from

speaking German". Ozick simply retorted that English — for example — was a "Christian language."

"I don't know how representative this is," says Said, "but this woman is full of the most bloody-minded and intransigent attitudes, which in my view make her — how shall I put it? — For a second the impressively fluent Said is stuck. Bounding on the racist? I suggest."

Shammas accused her of being one. It's a preposterous idea, that those of us who have a natal connection to a land that goes back generations are somehow so many fleas to be dismissed. "Again, Said falters. "Yes, racism is still there."

Said's controversialist fire may have dimmed a little since he was diagnosed two years ago as having leukaemia. On the day we met, he had spent the morning in chemotherapy, was running a temperature and looked haggard. But he seems none the less to have a reserve battery of invective to heighten and defend his causes, political or academic.

Ahu Mazen, Arafat's aide in Washington who signed the Declaration of Principles last September, is a man of "extremely limited intellectual means, whose capacities as a strategic thinker are stunningly circumscribed"; Yitzhak Rabin is a "brutal, deeply unattractive man, who is very harsh and threatens every day."

On the publication of *Culture and Imperialism* early last year, an unseemly spat broke out on the letters pages of the Times Literary Supplement between Ernest Gellner, the book's reviewer, and its author.

In one letter, Gellner described Said's *Orientalism* as "entertaining but intellectually insignificant", while Said himself was a "fully naturalised and perfectly assimilated citizen of Woody Allenland". Said replied to this "puerile anti-American joke and... piffing trivia of the Common Room" by calling Gellner "an academic Rumpelstiltskin."

The quarrel has its roots in a debate over two fundamentally different visions of culture — the rationalist and anthropological (Gellner) versus the empathetic and literary (Said). The insults fly, but the gap may be unbridgeable. Ultimately, when resting from both his polemical jousts and his political engagements, Professor Said is a committed man of letters: "I've never taught anything here but literature, and my literary taste was formed independently of any political activities."

"As I showed in *Culture and Imperialism*, I am very interested, strictly speaking, in aesthetic form, and the way in which it can mirror and to a certain degree confirm or conflict with political and social issues. But I'm completely against reducing literary forms to mere political issues." — The Observer Review.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

The people no longer believe in principles, but will probably periodically believe in saviours — Jacob Christoph Burckhardt, Swiss historian (1818-1897)

The biggest big business in America is not steel, automobiles, or television. It is the manufacture, refinement and distribution of anxiety — Eric Sevareid, American news commentator (1912-1992)

So you think that money is the root of all evil. Have you ever asked what is the root of money? — Aya Rand, Russian-born author (1905-1982)

We do not usually look for allies when we love. Indeed, we often look on those who love us as rivals and trespassers. But we always look for allies when we hate — Eric Hoffer, American author and philosopher (1902-1983)

Take it easy, but take it — Studs Terkel, American author (1912-)

Concept of a happy family

By Mohammad Abu Zahra

The main unit of any society is the family, and the unity of any society is determined by that of the family. Treating families individually against social diseases will in turn heal the society all together.

Politicians realise the importance of each unit, and try to address these units to cause changes in the population as a whole to serve their political aims. Sometimes these aims are personal and do not serve the nation. The people then suffer because of the inefficiency of the system. But mainly plans assigned for a country's social development are carefully studied for the benefit of the majority.

The happiness of a family depends on several factors, which vary according to cultures and traditions; what some might consider as a happy family, others see it as miserable.

A family cannot flourish unless the relation between the mother and the father is solid. Without this relation divorce or separation is inevitable. Occasional fights do not threaten a marriage but reassure it to certain extent, but if these quarrels exceed this extent they become dangerous.

Relationship between brothers and sisters comes in the second place. As brothers and sisters they should

be able to share secrets and trust each other. Sometimes this relationship is replaced with one of respect when age difference is vast.

Nowadays, the financial status of a family also controls its happiness. Poor families cannot afford joy; the parents are likely to argue about money and children feel deprived.

General atmosphere or unusual circumstances play a significant role in the mood of a family. Frequent immigration has a negative effect on the children, education wise and socially. Unusual circumstances, however, such as war, floods or famine are less likely to destroy a family depending on the amount of physical and emotional damage caused.

Sometimes the problems of one member in the family could cause worry for the whole family, because brothers and sisters care for each other no matter how they were brought up.

Wrong child-raising methods like discrimination, punishment and comparison among brothers could distort a child's personality and mentality.

After reviewing the factors of happiness, we wonder: Is it very important for a family to be happy? After all, the children leave their nest after 20-25 years, and parents don't have children to worry about anymore. So does the fact that someone comes from a

shattered family affect the future of this person? Will his suffering be reflected in his future family? Is it an inherited disease?

It is hard to answer all these questions, but surely someone who had a miserable childhood would differ as a parent from someone who enjoyed his adolescence.

I think that someone who lived in an unstable home would react in two different ways; he could either prevent repeating the same mistakes with his children because he does not want them to suffer like he did. Or the parent could have been so badly abused by his own parent that he might try and get even through his or her children. Sometimes two brothers raised in the same conditions could give different results in bringing up their families. The personality of the abused and the partner as husband or wife greatly influence which route he or she would adopt as a policy. In my opinion abuse and unhappy marriages are inherited diseases, but their numbers decrease with generations because a healthy kid is unlikely to end up as a crazy husband or wife. But someone who was abused could keep his faith and live the rest of his life peacefully.

There are direct effects on children who come from unhealthy environments, these effects differentiate the happy and sad children.

One of the most direct and clear effects is carelessness. An unhappy child loses incentives for life with time, he no longer recognises the importance of hard work and reward. This in turn causes under-achievement in school and trouble brings more trouble.

Lack of self-confidence is another possible effect partly because the child misses encouragement from his parents or guardians. Lack of confidence kills the curiosity and sense of positive adventure in the child, causing further disruption in his personality.

In some cases the distrust in others develops an isolated boy with few or no friends at all, which is very dangerous as the boy quietly grows angry at the world around him until he explodes in his own way. In other cases, the same distrust could create a rebellious person, who looks for trouble and tends to defy the world, making himself more vulnerable to incorrect activities like drugs and gangs.

With happy individuals, you have happy families. Happy families make up happy communities. Happy communities build up a better world.

The above article won the first prize in a Kingdom-wide school essay-writing competition. The writer is an eleventh grade student.

Personal data bases

By Jean-Claude Elias

One of the software applications that personal computers (PC) users tend to neglect the most is the data base. There is a good reason for that.

Private users rarely have large amount of information to store and process. Consequently, the small amount of data is perfectly handled by spreadsheet programmes like Lotus or Excel, though not exactly as it would be with specially designed software like dBASE, FoxBase or Access.

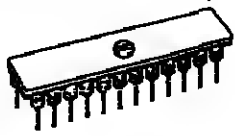
Corporations, government organisations and large businesses on the other hand manipulate huge amounts of data that is vital to their operating.

For the non-initiated, a few examples of data structures will make things clearer. A letter, a drawing, calculation sheets, digital music, all such formats do not correspond to a data base structure. An address book, an inventory list, data concerning all the students in a school, and others, make perfect data bases.

A data base file is made of records and records are divided in fields. In the case of an address book, each name (including its details) would represent a record, while each detail (first name, family name, telephone number, fax number, street address, city, country...) would make a field.

When a simple listing of the file is required and if the total number of records (names) does not exceed a couple of hundred, a spreadsheet or a good word processor will be more than enough. Actually such programmes are friendlier than dedicated data bases when it comes to small file sizes, for they allow an instantaneous, page-like visualisation of the data.

chip talk



Selective search, selective reporting, multi-indexing and all other similar function become either impossible or too complicated when using a spreadsheet or a word processor.

What kind of data would a private user need to process on his PC? A list of all his friends or a list of all the compact discs or cassettes he would have in his music collection. Even assuming he is very popular, he certainly wouldn't have 10,000 friends to register and, unless he is a rich collector, his music library would hardly reach 1,000 titles. Such personal data, again, is ideally processed by Lotus or Excel.

Naturally nothing prevents a computer amateur to enjoy FoxBase even if it is to store only 100 records. He would however be utilising a tiny fraction of FoxBase capabilities. The programme can store and process billions of records. Another positive aspect of using advanced data bases for personal purpose is that one gets the opportunity to have a good training on them, so if one day the real need to manipulate large amounts of data appears, one would be ready and well trained to do the job.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

GOOD MORNING

A friend once said to me:

"I have friends, a lot of them, a wife so beautiful, so faithful, so obedient who cares for me and I for her."

"I have money, enough money to lead a decent life, a quite big calm home with paintings, flowers, books, music, a fireplace and a cleaning lady twice a week."

"So why am I not satisfied?"

"Why am I always depressed?"

"Could you recommend me a way to get rid of such a terrible depression. I can't bear it any more!"

In reply to his puzzling question, I humbly said:

Learn something new.

Eat and drink moderately.

Pace up and down.

Go out for a walk.

Call up a friend.

Listen to light music.

Go to a good movie.

Read the Holy Koran, a story book or poetry.

Watch TV or listen to the radio.

Try to forget everything.

Keep smiling.

Live your day and ignore the past.

Then leave the rest to your Creator!!

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— What's your name? Mas-mok?

— What's your address? Ma howa onwanok?

— What's your nationality? Ma heya jinsiyatok?

— Jordanian/Lebanese/Egyptian.

— Ordani/Libnani/Masri.

— What is your religion? Ma heya deyanatok?

— Islam/Christianity. Al-Islam/Al-Masecheya.

— What's your birthplace? Ma howa makan miladik?

— Jerusalem/Jericho/Damascus/Cairo.

— Al-Quds/Aretha/Dimashq/Al-Kahira.

— What is your job? Ma amalok?

— A teacher/an engineer/a doctor/a lawyer.

— Mu'allim/Mohandess/tabib/mohami.

— What do you want? Maza torced?

— Nothing. La shay.

— What do you like to eat? Maza tohih an ta'kol?

— What do you like to drink? Maza tohih an tashrab.

— What's your hope in life? Ma howa amaloka fil-hayai?

— To become a successful man. An osbiha rajolan najihan.

— What's wrong with you? Maza jara lak?

— What disturbs you? Mal-lazi yoz-ijoka?

— My father's ill and my young brother had an accident. Walidi mareed wa akhi asabaho hadith.

JOKES

— Husband: It is possible dear for us to buy a car and pay for it in instalments, like we do for the house.

— Wife: "Oh, how wonderful darling. And in 30 years the car would be our own!"

— Taking off her clothes piece by piece, the beautiful lady made for the lake to swim. The guard called her warning: "Swimming is not allowed in this lake."

Surprised by his presence she turned round and said: "Why didn't you tell me before taking them off?"

"Because taking off clothes is not forbidden," answered the guard coolly.

— FIRST LIAR: "Could you see those high Rocky Mountains? My father has built them."

SECOND LIAR: "Have you ever heard of the Dead Sea? My grandfathers had killed it."

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

... is associated with...

- a. ...
- b. ...
- c. ...
- d. ...

2. The "teacher of the sky" is...

- a. Pioneer-10
- b. God
- c. Site
- d. Mariner

3. Who was known as "Chacha"?

- a. Jawaharlal Nehru
- b. Mahatma Gandhi
- c. Kamal Atatürk
- d. Sukarno

4. How much blood does a man have in his body?

- a. 4%
- b. 10%
- c. 7%
- d. 18%

5. Where is Karl Marx buried?

- a. Rome
- b. Paris
- c. Moscow
- d. London

6. Photography was invented by...

- a. L. Daguerre
- b. Pox Talbot
- c. Neipie
- d. Gabriel Lipman

PARTY GAMES

(For children and adults)

BALLOON BLOW:

Small teams of about four or five players are needed, plus one circular balloon for each team. The leaders throw up their balloons at the starting signal, and then all the teams try to keep their balloons in the air by blowing at them. The hands or other parts of the body must not touch the balloon. The team that keeps its balloon up the longest is the winner.

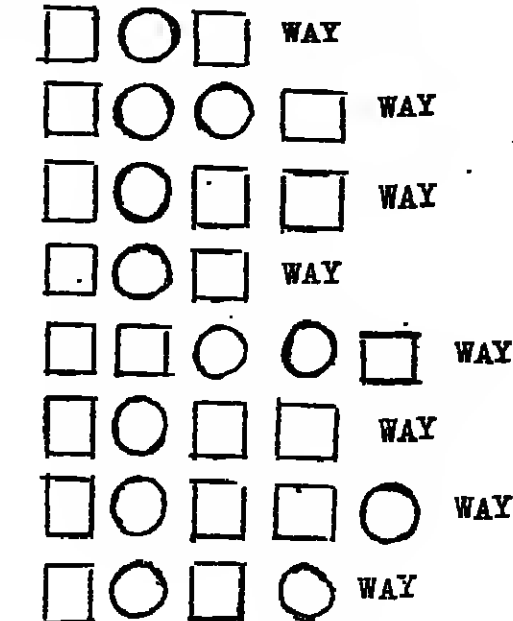
CAR GUESSING:

As a car approaches along the road, each player tries to guess its make. If two players guess the same, the one who speaks first collects a point (if the guess is correct.) If they call out simultaneously no point is scored. No points are scored if the guess is made as or after the car actually passes.

PUZZLES

VARIOUS WAYS

The words left incomplete below can be completed by placing consonants in the squares and vowels in the circles. The clues given will help you to place them correctly.



CLUES

1. The Scandinavian way.
2. The golfer's way.
3. The sailor's way.
4. The Welsh way.
5. The Worcestershire way.
6. The tramp's way.
7. The Scottish way.
8. The seedy way.

Israeli prisons and peace

By E. Yaghi

The word peace thrives on everybody's lips and wanders inside each individual's mind. What does it mean to those who face the daily terror of life under brutal and inhuman occupation of the Israeli military? What does peace mean to someone who has been detained and interrogated by the Israeli intelligence? And what is it like to be a Palestinian prisoner in a place like Purgatory?

The occupation has affected nearly every family inside the occupied territories and what family has not experienced the anxiety of having at least one of its members in an Israeli prison? Enormous fines are laid by military authorities on families who have an incarcerated member. Once in prison, identity cards are confiscated and young men are forced to carry magnetic green cards which indicate a prison record.

Several prominent organisations, including the International Red Cross, Amnesty International and the National Lawyers Guild, have condemned the terrible conditions endured by Palestinian prisoners and the routine use of torture.

When he was only 17 years, "Abu Khaled" woke up one night to find an Israeli army patrol bursting into his small three-room house where his mother, father, 2 brothers and 4 sisters lived somewhere in northern occupied Palestine. The Israelis had been informed that he was a member of a guerrilla group. Soldiers loaded with weapons broke everything in the house and then began to beat Abu Khaled's mother, brother and sister with their guns and boots. The youth was also beaten right before the soldiers bound his hands behind his back, blindfolded him and threw him into the back of a truck to the screams and protests of the rest of his family. He was taken to a police station while two soldiers held him by each side and a third had a M-16 pointed at his back. The blindfold remained as the soldiers hit him from all directions after which they threw him in a jeep where they bound him in a "banana tie," which is a method of tying the hands and feet together.

Abu Khaled did not see the barbed-wire that separated his temporary prison camp from the rest of the world, for a foul-smelling hood was placed over his head and for three days in the scorching heat of the summer, he was forced to squat and could neither move right nor left. His food was a dry piece of bread once a day with a small bit of jelly and a little water to drink, too, just once a day. Meanwhile, the soldiers continued to hit the youth and other prisoners who were with him and throw human waste on them until at least he was taken to an interrogation room where, with the hood still over his head, he was told in a gruff thick voice: "Tell us who your friends are and we will let you go. I am ready to help you if you confess. If you don't, we are ready to kill you."

At other times during the interrogation, he was told: "I'll give you money and your situation at home will improve," or, "I'll bring your sister and mother here, which will force you to say everything you know."

The youth felt he was so alone and the fear that insisted on forcing his way out from under his timid frame almost did so for he was hit constantly as he was forced to sit hooded, tied to a chair for days at a time. This method of torture aimed at demoralising him and increasing his state of fear and confusion to force a confession.

Still the youth did not confess or admit to anything

to the great frustration of his interrogators. Then, two soldiers grabbed Abu Khaled and stood him up, and put him in a small closet. The hood stayed on his head. A voice ordered him: "We're going to put you in here to give you time to think!" Then he heard laughter as the door shut and he was surrounded by a small structure. There he remained for about 7 days. There was no one to talk to so he said to himself: "It seems everyone has forgotten me. I am so alone. No one in the whole world remembers me. It's as if I don't exist!" And every time he almost went to sleep standing up, (human excrement was under his feet) someone pounded on the closet to remind him of the stark reality of his surroundings.

After this, the youth was taken back to the interrogation room and asked once again: "What did you do and who are your friends and fellow fighters?"

He knew that someone had turned him in to the Israeli authorities but there was no proof of his being guilty of anything, so the entire affair was pure speculation. The collaborators often give false information just to get money so the interrogators know many of their victims are innocent and they have not participated in any actions considered by them to be criminal. He also knew that if he didn't "confess" he would be tortured again. Finally, hoodless, he was ushered into the "Bird Room." A group of people were sitting around looking relaxed and comfortable. A young man got up and offered him a cigarette. The place looked nice and the youth got to eat, at last, a good meal. These people looked like friends and each one started to tell what he had done, asking the youth, "and what are your accomplishments and why did you get caught?"

But their questions were to no avail. Abu Khaled had already heard about the Bird Room and told nothing to anyone. At last, after six months of detention without trial, the youth was released. Not long after, his twin brother who had always said: "I want to die as a martyr for my country," and, "death is like the bite of an ant," was killed resisting the Israeli occupation.

A few years older, a lot wiser, Abu Khaled made up his mind to complete his education so he could better serve his country, Palestine. What does he think of the peace process? "Palestine is our land from the river to the sea and Jerusalem is our capital, but we have to be realistic. Like my situation in prison, we, the Palestinian people, are very alone and isolated from the rest of the world. We want a Palestinian nation where we can live in peace and security. We want a future better than the past that we had. All we want from all Palestinians whether inside or outside the country, is support and unity for our new nation and we want to show the world that Palestinians are not terrorists and don't just want killing. We have paid a great price for our sacrifices. We are now tired and weak and most of us live way below the poverty line. Enough detentions, arbitrary arrests, beatings, torture, injuries and massacres, house demolitions, expulsions, and the disgusting of a people who have suffered too long."

For former prisoners like Abu Khaled, who incidentally was detained without a trial and still has to find the laughter that his youth demands, peace will be a much needed blessing where the crossroads of the world meet, in the land of the ancient Jebusites, Canaanites and Philistines where he will try to pick up the shattered pieces of his life and rebuild it again. Meanwhile, he carries a cherished picture of his martyred brother next to his heart.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 21

9:10 Murder She Wrote

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mama Is Going To Buy You A Mocking Bird

Starring: Linda Griffith and Ken James

A mocking bird is what brings a father and his 12-year-old son together.

11:10 The Munsters Today

Friday, July 22

9:30 E.N.G.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Emilie

Emilie turns down an offer to move to a bigger school because her bond with her students grows stronger.

Saturday, July 23

8:30 The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air

9:00 One to one

A local programme hosted by Dr. Ziad Rifa'i

9:30 The Campbells

Awaiting the government's financial support, the inhabitants, lead by Dr. Campbell, join forces to open a children's school.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Baby And The Battleship

Starring: John Mills and Richard Attenborough

A light-hearted comedy about a baby who mistakenly gets on board a military ship... and how the crew toils to keep his presence a secret.

Sunday, July 24

8:30 You Bet Your Life

8:55 Jordanesque

9:10 Stolen Lives

A trip to the sea by James and Dawn brings them face to face with Dawn's real mother? Would James tell?

10:00 News In English

10:20 The House Of Eliott

As Bessie and Jack face their separation, the two sisters would have to come to a decision on how to solve their financial problems.

11:10 The Second Half

Monday, July 25

8:30 The Nanny

The Show Must Go On

Despite her inexperience in directing a school play, Fran gets help from Mr. Sheffield.

9:10 Documentary — Can Tropical Forests Be Saved

10:00 News In English

10:20 G.P.

11:10 Top Cops

Tuesday, July 26

8:30 Step By Step

10:00 News In English

10:20 Matrix

11:10 The Upper Hand

Wednesday, July 27

8:30 Coach

9:00 A Kind Of Magic

9:30 The World Of The Thirties

10:00 News In English

10:20 Poldark

Ross learns about the hidden copper, but as soon as he reaches the coast of Cornwall, the police start their hunt.

Iraqi artists — also victims of U.N. blockade

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United Nations economic embargo on Iraq and its effects on that country is a tale which needs no introduction to observers of the Middle East region.

However, one little-known aspect of the embargo is the radical impact it has had on Iraq's fine arts community, which for decades had been a cradle for many of the finest artists in the Arab World.

What caused disruption in the Iraqi arts scene was the same effect of the blockade which has proved a nemesis for Iraq's common man on the street as a whole — the drastic plunge in the value of the Iraqi dinar.

"A good painting now costs well over 50,000 Iraqi dinars in Baghdad," Dr. Shamil Kubbah, an Iraqi art gallery owner, told the Jordan Times. This amount is not so huge when translated into Jordanian currency (around JD70), he said, but with the average Iraqi salary being only around 1,000 Iraqi dinars (JD1.5) monthly, "it means that such works have now become almost unattainable for the average Iraqi person who wants to buy them."

"Circumstances are cruel for us in Iraq," said Iraqi portrait artist Ismael Azzam. "Artists' associations and the government try to help, but they can only provide at the minimum level to preserve basic living requirements."

The result has been that many Iraqi artists have scrambled to find ways to sell their works to foreign buyers and in foreign markets.

"It is simply not worth it to exhibit any more in Iraq," Dr. Kubbah said. "I'm finding it very difficult to attract any artists to exhibit inside the country. They

just don't want to sell for Iraqi dinars."

"And now, foreigners and diplomats coming to Iraq with large amounts of American dollars can buy any painting they want."

As well, said Dr. Kubbah, large volumes of artwork are being shipped across Iraq's borders, both legally and illegally, for sale to art galleries and buyers abroad.

All of these activities, he said, especially the widespread smuggling of artwork which he maintained is now taking place, are creating "a very big problem for the cultural community of the country."

Beside smuggling, another illegal activity which has evolved out of financial desperation in Iraq, and with potentially much more damaging effects, is the forging of artworks originally created by Iraq's more prominent and famous artists. Mr. Kubbah maintained that such forgeries are being produced in "enormous amounts."

"It only started after the Gulf War and it is very unfortunate, as it hurts Iraqi artists a lot."

The obstacles of the embargo have also created a new and previously non-existent class of businessmen in Iraq, Mr. Kubbah said — art merchants who actively buy large amounts of artworks inside the country and then take them abroad to sell them to foreign buyers.

With a little luck, said Dr. Kubbah, these art merchants can make handsome profits. And what can be counted as a handsome profit in foreign currency is translatable into an astronomical fortune when converted into Iraqi dinars.

"One person like this made \$175,000 (87.5 million Iraqi dinars) in three months in Qatar," Dr. Kubbah said. "In just a few months or so, he made more than

he'd ever made before in his lifetime."

Dr. Kubbah felt that the new phenomena of the art merchants has both positive and negative sides to it. On the one hand it is creating commerce for Iraqi artists which allows them to survive, often better than the average Iraqi, he said. But "as a result, it is also leading to a degeneration of the art movement in Iraq."

In place of the pioneering inventiveness and creativity in developing new themes and styles in Arab art which had made Iraqi artists famous, "the art scene has become focused on moneymaking, and artists will only paint what will sell," Mr. Kubbah said.

Jordan has become a refuge for many of the Iraqi artists, who are unable to obtain visas to travel to any other country due to the political fallout from the Gulf War. But the Kingdom's art market is very limited in its size and scope.

"All links between the Iraqi art community and the outside world have been cut off, and now for us it is either Iraq or Jordan," said Mr. Azzam. "Before we could exhibit everywhere — Paris, or New York. Our art had reputation and fame in the outside world."

With Iraqi artists flocking to the Kingdom, the result has been that Jordan's previously rather sleepy art community has been transformed by their activity into "a major arts centre in the Middle East. Now there are over 15 galleries in Jordan, more than in Egypt or Baghdad itself," Mr. Kubbah said.

But native Jordanian artists themselves have increasingly begun to see the Iraqi newcomers with suspicion, according to one Jordanian artist who would not be named.

Although he saw the Iraqi artists as a positive exposure and source of competition which had woken up native Jordanian artists from a long period of

limited activity and complacency, he referred with skepticism to some Iraqi artists who he believed "came to Jordan with contempt for the arts scene here, believing that Jordanian artists and critics cannot even distinguish between what is good and bad art."

The result, he claimed, was that these artists, hungry to make sales in Jordanian dinars, saw Jordanian buyers as a gullible market for sales of cheap and poorly done art, and sometimes even forgeries.

"There are many prominent Iraqi artists coming to Jordan who are proud of their reputation and would never engage in such tactics," he said. "But others have resorted to incorrect methods to make money here, and they also undercut Jordanian artists with their much cheaper prices, since a small sale in Jordanian dinars becomes very profitable when converted into Iraqi currency."

Dr. Kubbah said that Jordan may soon become closed as a refuge to Iraqi artists. The Iraqi government had recently removed an unlimited exemption for them which allowed them to leave Iraq without paying the steep 40,000 Iraqi dinars exit fees charged to most of the country's citizens. Now, he said, Iraqi artists will only be allowed to exit the country one time each year without paying the fee.

"I think the move comes because both the Iraqi and the Jordanian governments have a desire to cut down on the flow of artworks leaving Iraq for Jordan," he said.

As for what Iraqi artists would do if the embargo on Iraq was ever lifted, Mr. Azzam, who himself is currently living in Jordan, had no doubts.

"If the economy recovered, I would return without hesitation. And I am sure most of the other Iraqi artists who are here would return also."

Rouen — the capital for Nordic films in France

By Léna Lutaud

In the huge auditorium of the Gaumont Cinema in Rouen, all the seats are filled and even the steps have been fought over. At the end of the showing of *Total Balaika Show*, the latest film by the Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki, the spectators applaud madly. In Rouen, the big event every March is without any doubt the Nordic Film Festival.

PARIS — This year, the official selection revealed just how important the theme of the family is, in recent films made by young Nordic directors. After international successes such as *Ma Vie De Chien*, *Pelle The Conqueror*, and *The Best Intentions*, film makers go on in the same way.

"With *The Crisis*, we withdraw into what we know best, that is to say the family," the Swedish actor Rolf Lassgård, who won the award for the best male rôle in 1994, ex-

plains. Some of the austere and dramatic films competing in this festival, such as *Pater Noster* by the Finnish director Veikko Aaltonen, conform completely to the traditional image of the Scandinavian cinema.

Others, on the contrary, manage to escape the shadow of Ingmar Bergman. This is, in particular, the case with *Family Matters* by Susanne Bier (Denmark). This humorous, tender film is full of brilliant ideas. This full-feature film, which won the

general public prize in 1994, is the story of a young Danish cook who, on his mother's death, learns that he had been adopted. When he finds his biological mother, he takes her off to Portugal for a confrontation with the past. "It is a combination of Greek tragedy such as *Oedipus* and of Dallas-style soap opera," the main actor Philip Zandén explains.

The film has already

been sold in Great Britain, the United States and Belgium and is likely to be distributed in France rapidly. Already last year, *Freud Leaves Home*, Susanne Bier's first film, had drawn particular attention. Another big 1994 success is *Dis Papa* by René Bjerke (Norway) who is the lucky winner of the jury's big prize, that is to say an award of 10,000 francs to help with the distribution of the film in France. The film is like a documentary about the average Norwegian family

and its main theme is the

crossing of a young boy into the adult world and the relations between father and son.

This year, the festival also paid homage to some of the greatest masters of northern films. It was the opportunity for cinema-lovers to fill a few gaps and for neophytes to discover a wider range of Scandinavian films. First of all, the complete works of the Dane Carl Dreyer who made *Gertrude* (1964) and *Ordet* (1954) and then a retrospective of works by the Swede Roy Andersson with *Histoire D'Amour* (1970) and *Giliap* (1975).

For the seventh consecutive year, the organisers have succeeded in bringing together important delegations of Nordic actors, directors and producers to fill the Rouen cinemas. This is quite a success as some films which are now famous worldwide were shown in France for the first time.

in Rouen. These include *Ma Vie De Chien*, *Babette's Feast*, *Pelle The Conqueror* and *Leningrad Cowboy*.

Nevertheless, in view of the success of these films with the public in Rouen, it is surprising to note the almost complete absence of Nordic films in French cinemas. As nobody can question the quality of these productions, no doubt the language barrier and reluctant distributors are to blame.

In fact, the French know Nordic films mostly for their actors such as Léna Olin (*The Unbearable Lightness Of Being*, Mr. Jones, Havana), Ewa Fröling (Fanny And Alexander) or Stellan Skarsgård (Red October, Good-Evening Mr. Raoul Wallenberg). "They are excellent as, since they live in little countries, they have to alternate between cinema and theatre," the Swedish director Kjell-Ake Andersson explains.

Most of the best-known Scandinavian film-makers have sought exile in Hollywood in the hope of finding easier backing for their projects. Thus Bille August (Denmark) recently produced *The House Of Spirits* and Lasse Hallström (Sweden) made *Gilbert Grape* with Johnny Depp. The Swedes, who are deeply influenced by American culture, are among the first victims of the tidal wave of Hollywood productions. As a result, in Sweden, more than 80 per cent of films shown are American. In such circumstances, it is not surprising to see Scandinavian professionals admiring the reaction of the French in GATT. "It is very important to stop this Hollywood tidal wave and to unite from Stockholm to Madrid via Paris in order to save European cinema," Kjell-Ake Andersson and Roy Andersson exclaim in unison — *L'Actualité En France*.



At the 1988 Cannes Film Festival, Danish film-maker Billie August won the Golden Palm Award for his film *Pelle The Conqueror*.

Polish film director Wajda turns to different interests at 68

By Timothy Heritage
Reuters

WARSAW — Andrzej Wajda stretches back in his chair, looking content to be out of the limelight for once after four decades at the top of Polish cinema.

The internationally-acclaimed film director who battled the Communist censors for 35 years is currently making no films, has ceased to be head of President Lech Walesa's Culture Council and has given up his post as a senator.

Wajda, 68, says Polish cinema is a changed world since the end of Communist rule in 1989 and, despite his success and many

awards, has doubts about his own place in it now.

"I am not thinking of making a new film at present," Wajda told Reuters in an interview.

"I consider what the audience lives with today and I wonder if I am still capable of making a film which would capture the audience's interest," he said.

But Wajda is not thinking about retirement from public life. Instead, he is devoting his time to other passions — the theatre and helping set up a Japanese Art and Culture Centre in the southern Polish city of Krakow.

"I want to be involved in other projects — building the Japanese centre

and in my work as a theatre director," he said.

In between trips abroad to New York, Budapest and Stockholm in recent months to work on theatre projects, Wajda has been helping collect funds for the Japanese centre which is due to open in Krakow on Nov. 30.

Funded to the tune of \$5 million, partly by the Japanese government and partly by public donations, the two-storey centre in the heart of Krakow will display old Japanese art as well as modern technology such as robots and electronics.

Wajda says his interest in Japan has grown during a number of trips there throughout his career and

he wants to display some of the country's culture in Poland.

"Japan has a great past in art and also has its modern achievements. I hope children will come and see this — that is what it is chiefly aimed at," Wajda said.

Many Poles would say Wajda has earned a spell out of the public eye.

His films, from *Generation* in 1954 to *Korczak* in 1990, not only made him the father figure of modern Polish cinema but won him widespread admiration for his intellect and daring to do battle with the Communist censors.

Canal (1956) broke new ground by portraying the

1944 Warsaw uprising led by the home army against the Nazis, and was followed by films such as *Ashes And Diamonds* (1957) which often expressed views which differed from the official line.

In *Man Of Marble* (1976), a journalist is blocked at every turn when she tries to find out more about a worker who was idolised by the Communist authorities but discovered the reason is because he in fact turned against the authorities.

And in *Man Of Iron* (1981), Wajda portrayed the strikes led by the Solidarity trade union which later ended Communist rule.

"Many of the past films had a political aspect and that was clearly seen by the viewers," Wajda said.

"I never had a problem with the audience. They identified with my opinion and took it into consideration on matters which were of great importance for them," he said.

The end of Communist rule in 1989 opened a new era for Polish cinema. The Communist censors disappeared, but directors who had fought the system were left searching for new ideas.

"We were living in an isolated country and now that country is free. Nowadays film is no revelation — for news you can go to parliament, or

the president's office or read (the daily newspaper) *Gazeta Wyborcza*," Wajda said.

"Now the audience lives a different life. They seek answers to different questions, perhaps existential rather than political questions," he said.

Wajda, an old Solidarity ally, threw himself into politics by running in 1989 in Poland's first partly-free elections since World War II. He won a seat in the Senate, the upper house of parliament, which he held for two years.

In 1992 he became chairman of Mr. Walesa's Cultural Council, an advisory body, only to drop out less than two

years later.

"I led the council because I believed artistic circles should have their say on different matters but I see that this voice has a small impact. I became aware that I did not believe in it," he said.

But despite this, Wajda does not regret his foray into politics, believing parliament did a great deal while he was a senator. He says Poland has achieved much since Communist rule ended and that he is happy in the reformed country.

"I like to work in Poland because this is my country and my audience," he said. "I am linked with this land."

The Grisly Wife wins Australia's top fiction prize

By Peter James
Spielmann
The Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia — Rodney Hall's novels give a voice to aborigines, criminals, deviants, religious fanatics, the insane and eccentrics whom modern Australians have blotted out of their memory and consciousness.

"It's what gets forgotten that interests me," said Hall, who believes Australia cannot be whole and healthy until it lives up to the darkest chapters

of its past. "My little contribution is jogging the memory on a few things."

"For example, in this country we've done a very curious thing. We've made the tragedy of Australia a European tragedy," Hall said in an interview.

"We think of the convict system and the brutalisation of certain of the convicts. We've made that the tragic element in our past. Whereas, of course, the real tragedy was the aboriginal tragedy," in which their numbers fell

from 2 million in 1788 to 200,000 by the late 1960s.

"We've spent most of the last 200 years ignoring the fact that at least 50 per cent of the aboriginal population in this country was murdered. The only way to live with that, is to not live with it. And a nation without its own tragedies, as well as its own triumphs, is not a whole nation at all."

Hall's trilogy of historical novels firmly are set in the past, but speak to modern concerns. "I don't

see it as taking the reader back into the past. I see it much more as bringing the past immediately into the present."

His latest, *The Grisly Wife*, tells a curiously contemporary tale set in the 19th century, about an apocalyptic English Evangelist called the Prophet who gathers a group of female disciples — the household of hidden stars — in the New South Wales outback to await the end of the world.

Each woman is missing

something. The narrator, Catherine Byrne, has lost a toe. Another disciple is missing the entire lower half of her body. Another has lost her mind.

In this mystic colony, Catherine sees the dead resurrected, converses with God, watches the Prophet levitate himself — barely, just an inch or two — and survives tuberculosis.

In May, the tale won the 58-year-old author the Miles Franklin Award For Fiction based on Australian life, the nation's top

literary prize worth \$18,500. But more importantly, it cements Hall's place among Australia's best novelists. Critics rank him with the late Patrick White, the nation's only Nobel laureate for literature.

Hall won the prize once before, in 1982, for his first major novel, *Just Relations*.

The Grisly Wife completes a trilogy of novels in which Hall reinvents Australia's past. The others are *Captivity*, a bloodthirsty crime tale

steeped in murder, incest and the brutality that England bequeathed its Antipodean colony, published in 1988, and *The Second Bridegroom*, from 1991, about a myopic printer's apprentice sent to Australia as a convict.

"I got very intrigued by what, in our history, we perhaps even consciously forget, what we don't like to face. It seemed to me that tells us quite a bit about ourselves today," Hall said.

He agreed that Australia must face the repressed

episodes of its past, such as the oppression of aborigines, just as Japan and Germany have had to come to grips with atrocities they committed in World War II, and Latin American countries must re-examine human rights abuses under military rule in the 1970s and '80s.

"I think it is the same process, but I think there is a very striking contrast between trying to fish up the truth from 100 years ago, and fishing up the truth which is only been a generation," Hall said.

Study suggests virus causes blood vessels to close after treatment

By Paul Rezer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A new study hints that a common human virus may play a role in the new blockages that often form in blood vessels that have been treated with coronary angioplasty.

Scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) report they have found evidence that the virus, cytomegalovirus, may deactivate a key gene and cause an overgrowth

of smooth muscle cells inside arteries that have been pruned open by angioplasty, a procedure that uses an inserted balloon to open clogged arteries.

The gene, called P53, has earlier been identified as one of the body's defenses against cancer. Studies have shown that the gene's normal function is to limit the growth of cells. Missing or deactivated P53 has been linked to many human cancers.

Dr. Stephen E. Epstein,

an NIH researcher, said the study in his lab should be considered only preliminary and not proof that the cytomegalovirus, or CMV, is the culprit in closing the treated arteries. The study was reported in the journal *Science*.

"We aren't there yet (with proof)," he said. "But the evidence does suggest this as a possible mechanism for the re-closing of arteries after angioplasty."

Baylor College of Medi-

cine virologist Dr. Joseph Melnick called the NIH study "fascinating" because it indicates a possible link between cancer and heart disease.

Dr. Epstein said the process may work this way:

Patients with blocked arteries are treated with coronary angioplasty. In this procedure, a tube is threaded up an artery until it comes to a site that is blocked by a heart disease process.

A collapsed balloon is then threaded up the tube and positioned at the blockage. The balloon is inflated and compresses the plaque material that caused the blockage. This allows blood to flow freely.

But in more than 25 percent of angioplasty patients, a blockage reforms at the treated site, often leading to the need for coronary artery bypass surgery.

The NIH team reasoned that the new blockage may

be caused by an uncontrolled growth of smooth muscle cells like those in the artery wall. Dr. Epstein said the angioplasty often causes a slight injury to the artery. The vessel then tries to heal itself by growing new cells.

It is possible, he said, that the injury somehow activates CMV particles that are present, but latent, in the artery. This virus, he said, could attach to P53 and then shut down the gene's action.

When P53 is re-acti-

vated, said Dr. Epstein, smooth muscle cells repairing the artery are allowed to grow without restraint, forming a new blockage.

OMV is a widespread and common virus that seldom causes diseases in people with mature and healthy immune systems.

In the NIH study, researchers examined specimens from 60 patients whose arteries had re-closed after angioplasty. In 23 of the patients, there was evidence that P53 had

been inactivated, Dr. Epstein said.

The researchers also looked for evidence of CMV. In 11 of 13 patients who had inactivated P53, the scientists found traces of the virus. This was true in only three of 11 patients who did not have inactivated P53, Dr. Epstein said.

Science, which published the study, is the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Traditional medicine brings modern wealth to Vietnamese village

By Robert Templer
Agence France Presse

NINH HIEP, Vietnam (AFP) — Once a year the drug lords of Ninh Hiep set aside their deal-making, leave their plush villas and gather to give thanks to the woman who made this one of the richest villages in northern Vietnam.

Those away on business are expected to return for the festival at the gilt and red lacquer temple built in honour of Ly Nhu, a famed 10th century doctor and founder of a trade in medicines based outside Hanoi and now expanding around the world.

The families that keep a tight grip on the lucrative trade last year exported more than a thousand tonnes of medicinal plants, gathered from forests across Vietnam and processed in the paved courtyards of the village.

While the men still farm the paddy fields around the densely packed houses, the women chop twigs, grind roots into flour and shell the lotus seeds that have raised incomes in the village to around \$1,000 a year, five

times the average for Vietnam.

Lavish modern houses decorated with marble and rococo plasterwork have sprung up among the tidy brick-walled compounds and narrow lanes that reek of cinnamon, aniseed and the dusty musk of fungi and bark.

Communist Party official Nguyen Van Dang boasts of more wealth to come as markets open up in Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong, raising the 40 per cent share of village revenues brought in by the medicine trade.

"Communications are our priority — the new road was built with village funds and we're working on the telephones. Everyone's got electricity now and at least one motorbike," he said.

In their plush new offices — next to the planned site of a swimming pool — the People's Committee coordinates the trade, selling processed goods through a state import-export in Hanoi.

"We want to be able to sell directly to foreign clients. It would be so

much easier if we were allowed to have our own export firm," Mr. Dang said.

Direct trade with China, the biggest buyer of lotus seeds, nuts and medicines, goes on unhindered by Hanoi, with trucks lining up at dusk to make the night journey up to the border some 120 kilometres (70 miles) away.

Nguyen Tach Vien is a third generation lotus seed trader, a man who neighbours whisper earns thousands of dollars a year, although he dismissed any discussion of his wealth with a nod at a woman crouched by a pile of seeds. "The wife handles all that."

Lotus seeds, a delicacy across Asia, are bought in southern Vietnam or Cambodia, dried and shelled in Ninh Hiep and trucked into China to be sold or bartered for medicinal plants that grow further north, such as the immensely valuable ginseng root.

"A few years back we were selling a few kilograms (pounds) of lotus seeds, now we're selling tonnes," Mr. Vien said.

"There's a lot of competition now between the families. You have to think about quality all the time," he said, explaining that the business had split between those who buy the nuts, the processors and those who trade with China.

Most of the families who deal in the 200 medicinal plants traded in Ninh Hiep have developed an informal cartel with each specialising in just a few ingredients of the Vietnamese pharmacopoeia.

Competition now comes mainly in the form of displays of wealth — cars, stereos, donations to temples and heavy furniture inlaid with mother-of-pearl.

Ninh Hiep has a history of wealth derived from its doctors, medicines and silk, traditions revived by Vietnam's economic reforms and reflected in a couplet inscribed in Chinese characters above an ancient gate:

"This is a land of untentious virtue, passed on by our ancestors, where goods are abundant and the markets are wide."

AIDS spreading quickly throughout India

By Thomas Wagner
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — AIDS is racing through India just eight years after the first case was detected. Prostitutes, drug addicts and untested blood supplies are the conduits.

More than half of the prostitutes in cities such as Bombay have HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The truck drivers and itinerant workers they serve carry it to their own villages.

In northeastern India, 70 per cent of the estimated 30,000 intravenous drug users have become HIV-positive.

Hundreds of private blood banks rely heavily on professional donors, poor people who survive by selling their blood. Seldom are the donations properly tested for AIDS.

The HIV virus has been reported in all 25 states. Although the AIDS pandemic came later to India than to most large countries, the National AIDS Control Organisation estimates there are 1.62 million cases in the population of 880 million, up 60 per cent from 1993.

If India follows the path of sub-Saharan Africa, the AIDS epicentre, that number could grow to 10 million by the decade's end, according to world health authorities.

"AIDS is no longer just a problem of high-risk

groups. It has spread to every area of India," Dr. P.R. Das Gupta of the National AIDS Agency said in an interview. "So many people are migrating from the villages in search of jobs that this epidemic is spreading very fast."

Few countries face as many obstacles in combating AIDS.

Medical facilities are so inadequate in rural areas that hundreds of thousands of Indians die each year of cholera, measles, tuberculosis and other easily curable diseases.

Malnutrition leaves millions with weak immune systems. In a nation where 43 million cases of sexually transmitted diseases are reported each year, even faithful married women have untreated infections of the reproductive tract that make them susceptible to AIDS.

Indian doctors often refuse to treat patients with AIDS, for fear of catching it. Many people still believe wrongly that the HIV virus can be spread through a handshake, that it is unsafe to ride on a bus or work beside an infected person.

Sex has traditionally been a taboo subject in India and homosexuality is still illegal. There is little research on sexual behaviour to help direct the fight against AIDS.

That means no one



India's two million truck drivers spend an average of 20 days a month on the road

knows whether commonly accepted assumptions are true: That India is less vulnerable than the promiscuous West because sex before marriage is uncommon, and that only the poor and uneducated buy sex.

Few politicians are willing to discuss AIDS publicly because the official number of reported deaths — 713 — reinforces the popular notion that there is no crisis.

Most experts on AIDS dismiss the official figure as absurdly low, but none has a reliable estimate.

The World Bank, which gave India an \$84 million loan in 1992 to finance anti-AIDS programmes, recently complained to the government that some states had not yet put the money to use.

Nearly half of all Indians are illiterate, so educating them about any complicated subject is difficult. States-run television carries few warnings or programmes about AIDS.

Effective education is vital in a male-dominated society where few men use condoms and few women — wives as well as prostitutes — would dare ask them to.

An investigation of unusually high demand for government-supplied condoms among long-distance truck drivers in southern India revealed that they were being used to plug radiator leaks.

Birth-control programmes have had uneven success in India, which is expected to surpass China as the world's most populous nation early in the next century. The government is trying to make sure all men will have access to reliable condoms.

Bombay is one of several large cities where poor, illiterate girls are kidnapped or sold by their families to work as prostitutes.

At least 100,000 women work in Bombay's 25 red-light districts. Activists trying to help them say the women cannot afford to turn away customers who refuse to use condoms.

Many of those customers are truck drivers or migrant day-labourers who use prostitutes in the city, then return to their wives and villages.

The situation is even worse in the northeastern states of Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram, which border Burma and South East Asia's infamous Golden Triangle drug-producing region. There, heroin is as popular as cigarettes and often cheaper than alcohol.

Many addicts belong to tribes in which sharing is a tradition. That now includes sharing needles, which spreads the AIDS virus.

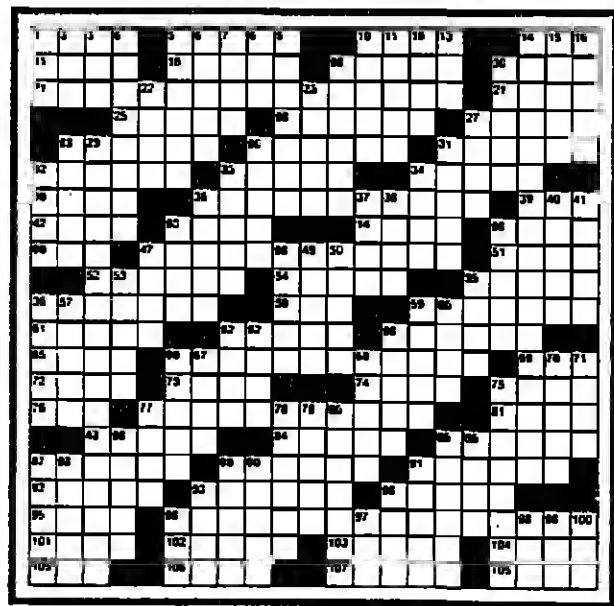
State governments in the northeast, faced with tribal uprisings for autonomy or independence, have given low priority to AIDS.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

LEGAL TENDER
By Arthur S. Verdica

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 3. 19th-century poet
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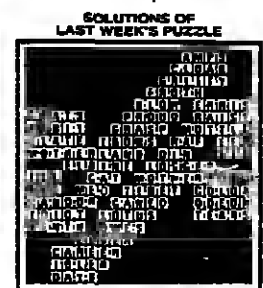
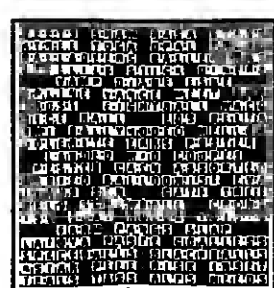


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Kind cashier cashed big check for forlorn-looking character dressed in
2. Why lion wails down neck of male buffalo and says, "I'm full of bull."
3. Handicapped parking spaces seem handy to too many piggy parkers.
4. I'm sure glad bullroarers are making a gradual comeback.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. JQBT ENAJFLAJ SWQBF DSELMTR XNJ INA
XJQNAH HQPP LFPLATAH XLQMB DPLI
XLQH HL SWNAQ. —By Earl Ireland
2. FIZ GNP OGIPITAG LIBOGNEWOBK NPK
ZONWFOBTOP ILWOP XEOKR ZBIPX OEW
PIW DO LABOT. —By Diane R. McGary
3. OUNOOMPY CNN AXPLNOLRPL WRO
LEXICON RELMAIORLMPY ANELRMP
ONLLNEO MP ROUWRNL. —By Ed Huddleston
4. CLK "JEBZEGPEGPM" VA E GITCKBOIEZ
EAM AK ZET QMIT RMYV FIVAO BA E
PMHEGPM VA BLYHFM JBYQMI. —By Sel Tanaher



Kidnapped women return from brothels with AIDS virus

By Binaya Gurucharya
The Associated Press

KATMANDU — Like other young Nepalese women lured from their villages and sold to Indian brothels, Gita worked in Bombay for 10 years and remained a pauper.

Then she fell ill and was thrown out of the brothel. A doctor who examined her gave Gita a report and a prescription, but she couldn't read. Only when she returned home and showed the papers to a neighbour did she learn she had HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

"As soon as I recover, I will get married and start my life over again," said Gita, now 30. She either does not realise AIDS is fatal, or cannot face the fact.

Seven years after Nepal detected its first case of infection with the HIV virus, 202 cases have been reported. Nearly half are women who once worked as prostitutes in India. The HIV rate is more than 50 per cent in Bombay brothels.

"Though the HIV prevalence in Nepal is at present relatively low, it can now find its way to a larger segment of the society very easily," said Dr. Daniel Taranata, who helped create the World Health Organisation's Global Programme on AIDS.

Social workers estimate up to 200,000 women from rural Nepal work as prostitutes in India. Many are lured by false promises of good jobs, but others are sold by their families.

"A cousin took me from my village with a promise of a job in a carpet factory in Katmandu," but left her in the Bombay brothel, Gita said.

The brothel owner paid her nothing for five years, saying he had given her wages to the cousin.

Another Nepalese woman, Sarita, said she was drugged, taken to Bombay by her uncle and sold to a brothel for \$800.

She escaped, and "as soon as I came home, I had my uncle arrested," Sarita said. "He confessed his crime, but he is still a free man."

Selling someone to a brothel is punishable in Nepal by 20 years in prison, but social workers say only a few people have been charged and fewer convicted.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. A
5. D
6. A

PUZZLES

VARIOUS WAYS

1. Norway
2. Fairway
3. Gangway
4. Conway
5. Broadway
6. Highway
7. Galloway
8. Caraway

U.S. is bound by its commitments

Following are excerpts from the address made by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the American-Jordanian-Israeli meeting on Wednesday:

Today, Israel and Jordan are stepping out from the old and into the new. An era of war is coming to a close; this ancient land's cries for peace are finally being heard.

Today, you lead your nations away from the hatreds of the past, hatreds that have wasted the talents of your people and robbed the dreams of your children. As we meet here together we can proclaim to the people of Israel and Jordan, the Middle East and the world: the time of destroying life is passed. The time for building peace has come.

For the U.S.-Israel-Jordan economic committee, that mission has already been joined. Today's historic meeting represents not simply a symbol of hope for a stricken land; it is also the practical instrument by which Jordanians and Israelis can achieve genuine reconciliation.

Since President Clinton launched the trilateral talks last October at his meeting with Crown Prince Hassan and Foreign Minister Peres, we have made great strides. At this, the committee's fifth session, we begin negotiating the details of concrete projects that will foster new patterns of trust and cooperation between Israel and Jordan. These projects will serve as the building blocks, the foundation, upon which a lasting political settlement will be based. They will promote economic development and, most importantly, they will deliver real benefits to the people of Jordan, the people of Israel, and, in time, the people of the region.

During these two days, the committee has the opportunity to once again advance our common agenda. Perhaps no sector offers more immediate promise than tourism. Together, Israel and Jordan contain some of the world's most treasured historical, cultural and religious sites, including the very spot where we convene today, the Dead Sea.

(Continued from page 1)

aviation and establishing a road link between Israel and Jordan.

Jordan and Israel also agreed to form a committee to facilitate the opening of a crossing point in the Eilat-Aqaba area for third country nationals and to conduct preliminary studies for constructing a road that will link Jordan, Egypt and Israel.

The trilateral committee, which was set up in Washington in October 1993 by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Mr. Peres under the auspices of U.S. President Bill Clinton, will meet regularly in the region with the three foreign ministers meeting periodically in the region and meetings of experts continuing to work on specific projects.

Dr. Majali said the meeting came out of the hard work of men who "have invested life times to make it possible."

"We should dignify their toil with honourable peace that is just, permanent and comprehensive," he said.

Dr. Majali stressed that Jordan was seeking a peace from which all parties can gain, noting that in King Hussein's "vision," peace is not a zero-sum effort but an end that should bring democracy, freedom and dignity to all peoples of the area.

Mr. Peres told reporters that "peace is not a mondial (World Cup). We are not going to have one group winning; we are going to have all groups winning."

Though stressing commitment to the agenda for the peace talks that Jordan and Israel signed in September, Dr. Majali said agreement can be reached on various issues of conflict listed on it before they can culminate in a peace treaty.

"The integrity and unity of the common agenda is its basic characteristic. While we may apply a step by step approach to deal with its articles, it must be implemented in its entirety," Dr. Majali said.

"Building peace is like writing a book. It is carefully crafted chapter by chapter but the book is never complete until all chapters are

written and complete," Dr. Majali said.

But Dr. Majali stressed that the rights of the Palestinians must be dealt with fairly before a comprehensive and a just peace can be achieved.

"Security cannot be achieved while millions of Palestinians are denied their legitimate rights," Dr. Majali said, adding that the issue of Jerusalem should also be resolved.

"What is taking place today may be the light at the end of the tunnel we have crossed," Mr. Peres said in his speech. Time has come to permit legitimate peace and promising economy to "play their proper roles" in the history of the region.

"Peace with Jordan is central to the construction of a new Middle East," which will provide opportunities in economic, tourism, financial, trade and environmental fields to the benefit of both Israelis and Jordanians.

"Farmers will then replace soldiers, greenhouses will come instead of barracks, dunes will submit to plantations," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Christopher said that progress on the Jordan-Israeli track of the negotiations will invite American support to both countries and open new opportunities for economic development.

"President Clinton has vowed that the United States stands firmly with those countries that have shown the courage and vision to undertake risks for peace. As Jordan and Israel continue on the path of reconciliation, they should know that America, working with the entire world community, will do everything in its power to help them create a new future of security and prosperity," Mr. Christopher said.

At a press conference after the plenary session, Mr. Peres said that peace with Jordan enjoys the support of the great majority of Israelis, stressing that Israel "does not intend to bite in the slightest way the respect, the sovereignty and the land of Jordan."

"Jordan is not Palestine, Jordan is Jordan," Mr. Peres said, adding that while Israel sought to change its relations

with Jordan, it did not seek to change the Kingdom. He said Israel does not seek to solve the Palestinian problem at the expense of the Kingdom.

Mr. Peres, who is scheduled to visit Cairo today, said Israel sought an honourable peace in which all parties to the conflict will feel that they had a fair deal. "The foundation of peace is also friendship," Mr. Peres told reporters.

Giving the shortage of water as an area where cooperation is the answer to the problem, Mr. Peres said negotiators should look into prospects for joint projects to provide the area with its need of water in addition to determining the shares of the two countries in water.

Responding to a question, Dr. Majali said Jordan seeks its rights in land and water and peace will come when Israel ends its encroachment on the rights of its neighbours.

Dr. Majali said at the press conference, which was followed by a Jordanian-Israeli meeting in which he and Mr. Peres participated, that Jordan believes in the comprehensiveness of any solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict but does not link the different tracks.

"We Arabs have agreed on that each track has its uniqueness and pace," and the nature of the problems on each of the tracks will determine the pace of the progress of the negotiations.

It is not important who signs first or second, what is important is the attainment of a comprehensive peace for the benefit of all on the four tracks of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said every track has its own problems and difficulties and one track could go faster than the other.

"Comprehensive peace is for the area. The area has to have a comprehensive peace for the area. The area has to have a comprehensive peace for the good of everybody, for the good of Jordan, of Israel, of the Palestinians, of the Lebanese and the Syrians, and the whole region," Dr. Majali said.

Dr. Majali said that any agreements reached on any of the issues of conflict will be implemented and peace will come when all the issues have been resolved.

Asked whether King Hussein and Mr. Rabin will declare an end to the state of belligerency between Israel and Jordan during their meeting in Washington on July 25, Dr. Majali said:

"We did not discuss this. The summit meeting will announce what they're going to do. If I say it now, there is no need for the summit."

The fact that a joint declaration was planned at the summit was clear from Mr. Peres' comments. "I think also the declaration may contain some elements that we didn't speak (of) yet that may serve as the foundation of peace in the future," he said.

While Dr. Majali said the majority of Jordanians support the peace talks, of which

all concerned parties are being informed, Mr. Peres said the "people are ready for peace. They just need to be convinced" that progress for it is being made.

Mr. Peres was asked to confirm whether he had met with King Hussein on Nov. 3. The minister replied: "We are not here to write history, we are here to make history."

Jong's leadership proclaimed

(Continued from page 12)

in the showcase capital, KCNA said.

"Standing at the head of our revolution today is comrade Kim Jong-Il, supreme commander of the revolutionary army forces," the vice premier said. He called Kim Jong-Il "the great successor to the revolutionary cause of

juche (self-reliance) and the dear leader of our party and our people."

TV footage showed the younger Kim flanked by Defence Minister O Jin-U and Premier Kang Song-San, both ranked immediately below him.

A foreign diplomat in Pyongyang, reached by telephone from Beijing, said the

ceremony was a massive staged event aimed at reinforcing the first dynastic succession in the ever-shrinking communist world.

"No specific reference was made to Kim Jong-Il's titles," the diplomat said. "But it was not appropriate to announce it now.... Every speech implied that he was the new leader."

Text of trilateral communique

Following is the text of a joint communique issued by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the Dead Sea Hotel on Wednesday:

THE U.S.-Israel-Jordan Trilateral Economic Committee held its fifth meeting on July 20, 1994 at the Dead Sea Spa Hotel in Jordan. At this meeting, the American delegation was headed by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the Jordanian delegation by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, and the Israeli delegation by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. The three parties expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation to the government of Jordan for hosting this historic meeting.

The Trilateral Committee — established in October 1993 under the auspices of President Clinton by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Foreign Minister Peres — reviewed recent progress in the peace process. The committee noted favourably the Israeli-Jordanian bilateral negotiations held in the region on July 18-19, 1994, and the intention to continue these discussions next month. The delegations reiterated their inten-

tion to energise efforts to promote further progress on the Israel-Jordan track, looking forward to the meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin in Washington on July 25, 1994.

The Trilateral Committee also reviewed recent progress on its work and reached agreement on a number of future activities. The delegations agreed, in preparation for the meeting in the White House next week, to work on a master plan for the development of the Jordan Rift Valley. Meetings of experts earlier today indicated a substantial convergence of views on such a scheme and a common approach on proceeding. The experts will continue their meetings later today and tomorrow, and an intersectoral meeting will be organised to unify the planning criteria and develop detailed terms of reference. The United States agreed to facilitate further the continued work on the master plan.

The Trilateral Committee also agreed to continue work on trade/finance/banking, civil aviation, tourism, and establishing a road link between the two countries. On trade, the parties agreed on the establishment of a set of principles concerning trade and commercial relationships between the two parties in the context of a peace treaty. On civil aviation, the parties agreed to establish a joint team to explore aviation routes serving the interests of both countries and flight safety. On tourism, the parties agreed to a travel and tourism arrangement and to establish a trilateral commission to facilitate cooperation in this area, specifically the opening of a crossing point in the Eilat-Aqaba area for tourists who are third country nationals. Finally, the parties agreed to conduct a preliminary joint survey of a road linking Jordan, Israel and Egypt in the vicinity of Eilat and Aqaba.

The three ministers agreed to meet again periodically in the region, starting in the near future. Intersectoral meetings of experts will also be organised to continue work on specific projects.

It's not the Garden of Eden But it surely comes close!

Introducing the new Marriott Garden.

A wonderful oasis in the heart of Amman, where you

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Jerash Festival of Culture & Arts

Presents

American Folk Dance Ensemble

Brigham Young University
Sat. & Sun. 23, 24/7 Ticket Price JD 5
Time: 20.30

The "Tempest" A Play (By Shakespeare)

Mon. & Tues. 25, 26/7 Ticket Price JD 5
Time: 20.30

Opera Singer: Dame Malvina Major

Wed. 27/7 Ticket Price JD 10
Time: 21.30

South Theatre



Crossing Borders Ensemble

Thurs. & Fri. 21, 22/7 Ticket Price JD 5
Time: 21.30

Carmen Linares "Spanish Singing and Dancing Group"

Tues. 26/7 Time: 21.30 Ticket Price JD 5

Wed. 27/7 Time: 20.30 Ticket Price JD 5

Antonia Theatre



The Family International Group

Wed. & Thurs. 27, 28/7 Ticket Price JD 2

Time: 21.30

Sound & Light Theatre



TOYOTA

Coca-Cola

Geneva to host WTO head office

GENEVA (AFP) — Geneva has beaten Bonn in a two-month battle to host the headquarters of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the body set up to replace GATT, trade officials said Tuesday.

Andras Szepesi, the Hungarian ambassador to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and chairman of the committee charged with recommending the site of the new headquarters, told GATT Tuesday that a large majority of members favoured Geneva, the officials said.

Mr. Szepesi said the main reasons were that Geneva already hosts major international organisations like the European headquarters of the United Nations, and that the transition would be easier in Geneva since GATT is already based there.

The budgetary committee, preparing for the launch of the new world trade organisation was supposed to take a decision on the site Tuesday, but that meeting has now been put back until Friday.

Mr. Szepesi called on countries backing Bonn to modify their choice by then, the officials said.

The decision to set up the new organisation was part of the trade liberalisation agree-

ment signed under the auspices of GATT in the Moroccan town of Marrakesh in April.

German Ambassador Alois Jelonek said he was disappointed, but that his country would accept whatever decision GATT made.

He said Germany held no grudge against Switzerland even though a few days ago Germany accused its rival of engaging in unfair play in the bidding battle for the headquarters. Counting Islamic countries, Switzerland offered their diplomats credentials for two wives when necessary.

Germany is fighting to keep Bonn economically healthy as it ceases German government institutions and jobs to the capital of reunified Germany, Berlin.

For Switzerland, setting up the new world trade body will cost around 100 million Swiss francs (\$75 million). It will be located in an office building surrounded by a park on the edge of Lake Geneva.

The incentives offered by the Swiss include the building itself, free of charge, as well as construction of a conference hall and additional parking and expanded diplomatic privileges for the organisation's diplomats and employees.

Egyptian gas for Israel depends on price, supply

CAIRO (R) — Egypt is willing to export natural gas to Israel by pipeline but much depends on how much is available for export and whether they can agree on a price, Egyptian Oil Minister Hamdi El Banbi said Wednesday.

"They have already indicated a demand for two million tonnes a year of gas... we have been selling oil to Israel for 15 years and there's no problem in expanding this relationship to gas," he told Reuters in an interview.

The minister said he thought the two million tonnes a year, about 280 million cubic feet a day, would probably justify a pipeline, as long as the Israelis were willing to pay a premium for the environmental benefits of switching from coal to gas.

"We don't know yet what type of economics they have in mind. They are using coal at this time, which is very damaging to the environment but it is very cheap. It depends how much extra money they would like to pay," he said.

An Israeli-Egyptian technical committee has been discussing the gas trade but Mr. Banbi said it was still early days.

Gas industry sources said last month that Israel had

originally asked for enough gas only to supply one power station and the Egyptians had told them to go back and think again.

Mr. Banbi said another hurdle to cross was that the foreign companies which have discovered most of Egypt's gas had not yet given the government their development plans.

"So we cannot say how much gas we have... we first should have enough gas for local consumption, so we are now making this assessment with our foreign partners. We are looking for a time schedule for when can have self-sufficiency and the amount that can be spared for export," he added.

The minister said several other nearby countries had shown an interest in buying Egyptian gas but not necessarily through the same pipeline that would supply the Israelis.

"The Jordanians do not talk about this project but they have indicated their interest to talk with the Egyptians to get gas. This goes also for the Palestinians and we heard some unofficial indications from the Lebanese and some official indications from Turkey so the gas market is a very big market," he said.

Manila reschedules debt with Paris Club

MANILA (AFP) — President Fidel Ramos and other officials said Wednesday that Philippine negotiators had succeeded in rescheduling about half a billion dollars in maturing debts owed to the Paris Club of creditor nations.

The rescheduling also paved the way for Manila to seek about \$2 billion in fresh foreign aid commitments from bilateral and multilateral aid donors in a pledging session to be held in Paris Thursday, a special aid coordinating agency said.

The agreement rescheduled all of the principal and almost all interest falling due from August 1994 to the end of 1995 and includes provi-

sions for "debt for nature," "debt for aid" and "debt for equity" swaps.

Concessional official development assistance was rescheduled for 20 years - with a 10-year grace while non-official aid was rescheduled for 15 years with an eight-year grace period, the Central Bank said in a statement. It did not specify the amounts of official and non-official aid.

Statements from Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo said that despite economic progress in recent months, the country needed the rescheduling to close a projected foreign exchange shortfall of about \$500 million over the next two years.

He blamed this shortfall on volatile capital markets, the strengthening of the yen, an increase in oil prices and a boom in imports as well as on the country's \$34 billion foreign debt, and servicing which eats up about 18 per cent of its export earnings.

Mr. Ramos said that this development "will soften the pressure on the Philippines as it refers to the exit from the so-called exceptional financing - which is foreign borrowings - especially from these donor countries and the multilateral financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund."

As much as \$1.1 billion in debts to Paris Club members was open for rescheduling,

but the Philippines chose not to reschedule all of it because its financial situation has been strengthened by high reserves.

The completion of the Paris Club rescheduling came after the Philippines had sealed a credit programme of \$684 million with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last June. That had been intended to serve as an "exit programme" from a decade of IMF supervision.

This new rescheduling would serve as "an exit rescheduling," that would enable the country to end its dependence on IMF and Paris Club loans and return to full international creditworthiness.

Bonn to experiment with civil service pay

BONN (R) — Germany is to experiment with performance-related pay and bonuses for civil servants in an effort to make its bureaucracy more efficient, the government announced Tuesday.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's cabinet, which has often complained that cumbersome bureaucracy hampers economic growth, approved proposals for a mini shake-up in the cash-strapped public sector, provided there is no increase in overall costs.

"Existing pay structures in the public service apparently do not always make it suffi-

ciently clear that performance is the key criterion for paying public service staff," an interior ministry report approved by the cabinet said.

"For work which is considerably above average, public servants could receive a performance bonus as once-off payment or for a limited period," the report pointed out.

Mr. Kohl says excessive and inefficient bureaucracy is a key factor limiting Germany's international competitiveness, often citing as an example the fact that it can take years for a new factory or chemical plant to

win planning approval.

The government has tried to hold down staffing levels in the civil service and wants to privatise activities where possible.

In accepting the interior ministry report, the centre-right coalition agreed to launch pilot projects to test the introduction of "supplementary pay elements based on performance" throughout the administration.

Attempting to break with the tradition that senior officials are virtually never demoted, regardless of whether they are competent or not,

the government also agreed to experiment with probation periods.

"We should consider initially making appointments to leadership positions temporarily - for two years - so that officials can be adequately tested," the report said. Promotion for lower-ranking officials will also involve probation.

The report said the public sector should be willing to pay a premium for people with special skills who would otherwise be lured away to more lucrative jobs in the private sector.

Indonesia gets \$5.2b in development aid

PARIS (AFP) — The international financial community will supply Indonesia with development aid worth \$5.3 billion this year, the World Bank's Paris office has said.

That means that the 18 countries and 13 international organisations involved in the aid effort are maintaining their assistance at the same level as the last two years for the Asian country of 181 million people - which has en-

joyed one of the world's highest development rates.

The \$5.2 billion in aid this year corresponds to the needs expressed by the Indonesian government, and the assistance will have to be used for reducing poverty, developing infrastructures and protection of the environment.

The World Bank said that delegates to the donors' meeting "congratulate the government of Indonesia on

the country's excellent economic performance and its sound macroeconomic management". That brought average GDP growth (excluding oil) of 6.7 per cent a year in real terms on average over the last decade. The country has become less dependent on oil exports.

The bank noted that the sustained growth has enabled Indonesia to reduce poverty to a great extent, from affect-

ing 60 per cent of the population in 1970 to only 14 per cent today - one of the most striking improvements seen in this field in the world.

But the donors insisted on the need for Indonesia to respect the environment while remaining on a growth path. "Delegates noted the importance of improving the management of natural resources and controlling urban and industrial pollution,"

Ethiopia seen benefitting from coffee price hike

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia's coffee export earnings are seen rising if the international price hike is sustained until the next season, a top coffee exporter said Wednesday.

Acshenaki Gebreaiwot, executive secretary of the Ethiopian Coffee Exporters' Association, said Ethiopia expected to earn more from its estimated 90,000 tonnes of coffee exports in the 1994-1995 season, provided Brazil lost 60 per cent of its coffee crop due to frost, as reported.

"If that happens, it would certainly be a great boon for Ethiopia," he added.

However he said the frost in Brazil, which sent coffee prices to an all-time high, had come at an inopportune time for Ethiopia's coffee exporters.

"Most of the country's 1993-94 coffee crop had already been sold. As a result Ethiopian coffee exporters enjoyed only a small benefit from the sudden price hike," he added.

Ethiopia exported 85,000 tonnes of coffee in the 1993-94 season and earned around \$160 million, according to official information.

It exported 70,000 tonnes of coffee in 1992-93 and received \$120 million despite

low prices at the time.

Coffee accounts for over 60 per cent of Ethiopia's foreign exchange earnings. Most exports go to Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Mr. Acshenaki said Ethiopia's new liberal economic policy had enabled the private sector to play a major role in the coffee export business.

Private traders, who were now allowed to participate in the coffee business after years of state monopoly, had boosted interest among peasant producers, he said.

Many peasant farmers abandoned planting coffee under the former govern-

ment's Soviet-style collectivised agricultural policy.

He said private coffee exporters sent out nearly 31,000 tonnes of the total 85,000 tonnes exported in 1993-94 and earned the country around \$60 million in foreign cash.

Ethiopia launched its economic liberalisation programme in 1992, opening up an economy ruined by the centralised Marxist policies of exiled dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Ethiopia's annual coffee production is estimated at between 200,000 and 250,000 tonnes a year, most of it mild Arabica.

Asia's economic boom helps South Korea earn more construction orders

SEOUL (AFP) — Helped by a booming Asian economy, South Korea's overseas construction orders jumped by 26 per cent to \$2.07 billion in the first half of this year, government officials have said. Orders from Singapore, Thailand and other Asian nations topped \$1.2 billion, or 60 per cent of all orders South Korean firms received in six months, the construction ministry said. With orders streaming in, the ministry projected South Korea's accumulated construction orders this year at a four-year high of \$6 billion. After a two-year slump, South Korea's overseas construction orders doubled last year to \$5.1 billion. South East Asia has displaced the Middle East as South Korea's biggest construction market. By country, however, Saudi Arabia placed the biggest orders in the first half with \$359 million, followed by Bangladesh's \$311 million.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 21, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This well expected morning is a time when you can put those new ideas and plans of action into effect with the least amount of opposition. Quick and satisfactory results require a change in procedures.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Contact and influential person who can give you support for a fine project you have in mind. Take time for fun later in the day.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your ideas are working like magic early in the day so be more aggressive than in the past. Relax at home tonight with your loved ones.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make sure you carry through with promises to others. Loved one becomes more affectionate as the day passes.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take time to learn what is expected of you by associates and try to please them for possible advancement in career.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get busy at work ahead of you and gain fine benefits by being cooperative with others. Organizational work is the key to success now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A time to concentrate on getting ahead in

your line of endeavour. Know what will please loved one the most whatever the cost to you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day to confer with family members and maintain harmony in the home. Sidelstep one who is a troublemaker and will create problems.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good day to go after the information you need for a personal project. Today is also fine for communicating with outsiders.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are thinking in a more practical vein and can easily handle a difficult problem now. Express happiness with a loved one.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Morning may be depressing but later you can go after personal goals and gain them. Be careful of your money and don't spend it all.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Forget the frivolous for now and get busy on practical matters which could give you a greater income in the future.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A good friend who is wise can tell you how to solve certain problems. Listen carefully. Relax and be contented in the evening.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JULY 22, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today's full Moon could bring increased activity, so it's advisable that you schedule your time wisely and be prepared to gain the fullest possible use of this aspect as the Sun enters Leo.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can impress one in power in the morning with your abilities. But don't rest on your laurels. Be more encouraging.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Use your intuition, which is accurate now, in handling financial affairs. Think along optimistic lines of thinking. Be logical.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your logic is working fine early in the day, and you can act wisely. Don't take any risks when dealing with others.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make plans to have more abundance in the future. The planets are most favourable for getting ahead in career matters.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be sure to complete any work left undone before taking on new tasks. Discuss important business matters with financial experts.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Plan early for whatever you want to do, then carry through intelligently. This can be a particularly fine

day for you for a new assignment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Take time to put your business affairs in better order. Await a better time for looking into new outlets. Use care in motion.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Support persons who have been loyal to you in the past. Show increased devotion to your loved one. Plan for the future.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Study your money situation and make plans to have more financial security. Strive to be more efficient in your endeavours.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Have conferences with higher-ups early and gain their support and goodwill. Take time to improve your appearance around higher-ups.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Obtain the information you need from the right sources. A financial expert can give advice for a plan you have in mind to bring you success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Keep busy at tasks which can bring you added income in the days ahead. Handle important business matters wisely and with much thoughtfulness.

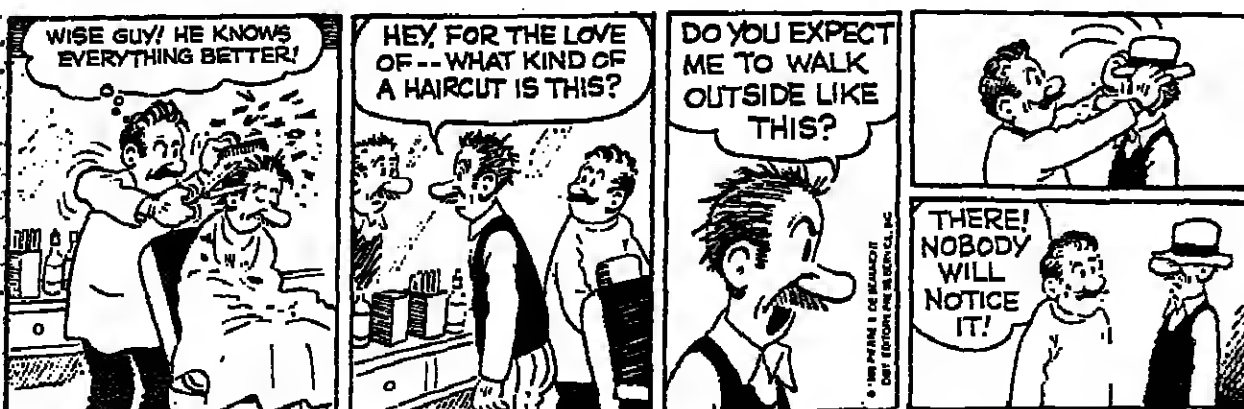
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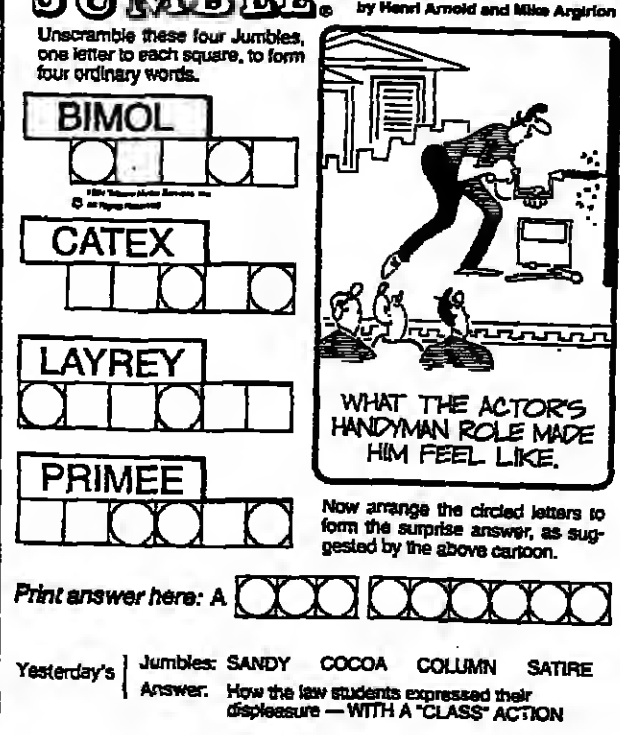
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THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



THE Daily Crossword by Matthew Higgins



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Orders from Singapore
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SDAY JULY 21, 1994
et, Caroli Ringer Foun

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Financial Markets			
Jordan Times			
in co-operation with			
Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close	
	20/7/94	20/7/94	
Sterling Pound	1.5486	1.5487	
Deutsche Mark	1.5685	1.5672	
Swiss Franc	1.3274	1.3260	
French Franc	5.3735	5.3880**	
Japanese Yen	99.25	99.19	
European Currency Unit	1.2170	1.2154**	
* All Per \$100, ** Per \$100, *** Per \$100, **** Per \$100, ***** Per \$100			
European Currency Unit			
Date: 20/7/1994			
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.12	4.50	4.87
Sterling Pound	4.57	5.00	5.25
Deutsche Mark	4.62	4.62	4.75
Swiss Franc	5.57	5.93	6.00
French Franc	5.43	5.30	5.48
Japanese Yen	1.57	1.93	2.00
European Currency Unit	5.67	5.68	5.81
Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 million dollars, 1,000,000 or equivalent.			
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin			
Date: 20/7/1994			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.7970	0.8940	
Sterling Pound	1.0700	1.0754	
Deutsche Mark	0.3407	0.4429	
Swiss Franc	0.5506	0.5733	
French Franc	0.1967	0.1995	
Japanese Yen	0.6966	0.7003	
Dutch Guilder	0.3930	0.3950	
Swedish Krona	*****	*****	
Italian Lira	0.0442	0.0532	
Belgian Franc	*****	*****	
Other Currencies			
Date: 20/7/1994			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.8170	1.8350	
Lebanese Lira	0.040325	0.041655	
Saudi Riyal	0.1840	0.1856	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3200	2.3750	
Qatari Riyal	0.1875	0.1890	
Egyptian Pound	0.3040	0.2250	
Omani Riyal	1.7750	1.8060	
U.A.E. Dirham	0.1575	0.1590	
Greek Drachma	0.2708	0.3175	
Cypriot Pound	1.3635	1.4575	
Per 100			

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Marathon welcome for World Cup champions ends in Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil's victorious World Cup soccer team crowned a marathon three-city welcome home tour in Rio de Janeiro Wednesday, the city where many of the team members first launched their sports careers.

From the top of three fire trucks that drove them from the airport to a luxurious beachfront hotel, the world champions waved to a sea of ecstatic fans who had waited faithfully until the early hours of Wednesday to congratulate them for making Brazil the first country to win the cup four times.

"It is impossible to explain in words what this means to us," said mechanic Humberto Tagino. "It's a feeling, an emotion."

The crowds of samba dancing fans appeared unconcerned by the team's delay, after it had made two previous stops in the northeastern city of Recife and the capital Brasilia.

"These people have waited 24 years for the cup to return

to Rio de Janeiro. They are not going to complain about staying around for another couple of hours," a TV commentator said, referring to the long dry spell since Brazil's last World Cup championship win in 1970.

A mile-long (1.6 km) convoy of horn-blowing cars followed the team's fire trucks as they moved slowly through the shantytowns that surround the city.

Among other team members, Rio de Janeiro is the home of Romario and Bebeto — the quicksilver striking duo largely responsible for Brazil's winning performance during the soccer championship.

The stop in Recife fulfilled a pledge by soccer officials to payback the support the team received there when Brazil thrashed Bolivia 6-0 last August in a morale-boosting qualifying-round win that launched them to the World Cup finals.

In Brasilia, their second stop, they received a thundering welcome from

thousands of supporters before being decorated by President Itamar Franco.

Police and troops standing before the presidential palace struggled to keep back the fans but hundreds swarmed past them to be close to their idols as they were presented to Franco on a palace veranda. Many supporters threw shirts to players for autographs.

Franco, flanked by political leaders and aides, presented players, coach Carlos Alberto Parreira and other team personnel with the government's order of sporting merit.

Brazil's 3-2 penalties win over Italy Sunday gave Latin America's biggest country something to cheer about amid seemingly unending inflation, crime and grim social and political problems.

Franco had decreed Tuesday a holiday for government workers in Recife, Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo to allow supporters to attend celebrations.



Thousands of people line the streets of Recife, Brazil Tuesday to cheer the Brazilian soccer team which won the World Cup July 17 in the final playoff game with Italy. Below, team coach Roberto Parreira (right) and captain Dunga arrive at Brasilia airport with the trophy. The team dedicated the fourth title to Brazilian Formula One driver Ayrton Senna who died during a Grand Prix race in Italy. Parreira holds Senna's helmet (AFP photos)

Rodriguez wins Tour de France 17th stage

VAL THORENS, France (AP) — Nelson Rodriguez of Colombia won the 17th stage of the Tour de France over a tough Alpine course Wednesday and Miguel Indurain stayed well in command overall.

Rodriguez beat Piotr Ugrumov of Latvia in a final sprint about a minute ahead of Marco Pantani of Italy, who took over third place in the overall standings.

Indurain finished about less than two minutes behind Pantani in fifth.

The stage had three climbs to peaks over 1,900 metres including the trip to Val Thorens, the highest ski resort in Europe, almost 2,300 metres (7,544 feet).

It was on the way to Val Thorens where most of the action took place.

Rodriguez, Bjørn Rieis of Denmark and Ugrumov had built up a lead of more than five minutes at the base of the

mountain with 35 kilometres (22 miles) to go in the 143-kilometre (93-mile) stage.

Rieis was dropped and Rodriguez and Ugrumov were left to battle for the stage win.

Behind them was a group that included Indurain and the rest of the overall leaders. Various members of different teams took turns in the lead in an attempt to wear Indurain out.

However no matter who picked up the pace, Indurain stayed right behind with no apparent effort.

Pantani, with an eye on moving up in the standings, took off and Indurain let him go since the Italian trailed by more than nine minutes in the overall standings.

Richard Virenque of France stayed in second place, 7:21 behind Indurain. Pantani moved into third, 8:11 behind, and Luc Leblanc dropped to fourth.

Puhl blasts too many bookings at World Cup

BUDAPEST (R) — Referees made too many bookings during the World Cup, Sandor Puhl, who officiated in the Brazil-Italy final, said on Tuesday.

"There were quite a few yellow cards," the 39-year-old Hungarian, manager of a department store, told reporters on his arrival home from the United States.

"It is absurd to give a yellow card for each foul. The yellow card is a disciplinary measure."

Puhl said although discipline was better at the U.S. finals than in Italy four years ago, it was FIFA's clarification of foul tackles that had made refereeing easier rather than the overuse of yellow cards.

Referees came under increasing criticism during the World Cup, although little of it was directed at Puhl.

Welshman Clive Thomas, who officiated at the 1974 and 1978 finals, said refereeing this year was the worst ever. FIFA, world soccer's governing body, sent two referees packing for mistakes they committed during second-round matches.

Puhl, however, said he was generally satisfied with the level of refereeing in the tournament.

"It was OK, except for one or two cases — and there weren't too many — which were caused by the referee not being in the right spot," he said.

Puhl said the Brazilian and Italian teams were both happy with his officiating during the final and several players congratulated him.

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Bulgaria welcomes its World Cup team

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of people welcomed the Bulgarian soccer team home Tuesday celebrating their surprising fourth-place finish in the World Cup.

President Zhelyu Zhelev was on hand at Sofia's airport, where a military honour guard and band paid tribute to the returning team.

Bulgaria lost in the semifinals to Italy 2-1, and then fell 4-0 to Sweden in the third-place game. But the fourth-place finish was Bulgaria's best-ever in the World Cup. Bulgaria's run to the semifinals included victories over two-time champion Argentina and defending World Cup holder Germany.

In a brief welcoming speech, Zhelev said the country's fledgling democracy had given many of the players a chance to take advantage of their talents by playing for leading Western European soccer clubs. Under communism, many star Bulgarian players had to stay home and play for domestic clubs.

Thirteen players on the Bulgarian roster have signed with clubs in Spain, Germany, Portugal, England and France. FC Barcelona's goalscorer Hristo Stoichkov, who led his Spanish team to four consecutive league titles, and Hamburg's Yordan Letchkov are the new sports heroes in Bulgaria.

"I'm happy that we brought so much joy to the

Bulgarian people, who are suffering right now from the difficulties of the transition period," said midfielder Krasimir Balakov of Sporting Lisbon upon his arrival. He was alluding to economic hardships caused as Bulgaria moves from a socialist to a market economy.

After the ceremony the team left the airport in a long convoy of Russian-made black Chaika limousines — a leftover from the country's communist past — escorted by motorcycle police.

Thousands of joyous fans crowded the streets waving the national white-green-red flag and cheering the convoy on its way from the airport to the national stadium in downtown Sofia.

Large sections of the city were closed for motor traffic. Many shops and offices closed for the afternoon, giving employees a chance to enjoy the festivities.

Almost 50,000 fans gathered at the stadium to join the players for a three-hour-long welcoming party with speeches and a musical tribute.

"Their soccer highnesses have arrived," said an announcer at the stadium, but the loudspeaker system was immediately drowned out by the roar of fans.

Addressing the players at the stadium, Zhelev thanked them for "giving us the feeling of national pride, which was buried for decades."

World Cup changes lives of Beijing residents

BEIJING (R) — The World Cup transformed the lives of Beijing residents, who were glued to their television sets in the early hours, showed up late to work, dozed off at their desks and dated less, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Only four per cent of the 986 people in the capital interviewed by the Beijing Youth News said they did not care about the World Cup.

An amazing 92 per cent of respondents either stayed up or got up especially in the early hours of the morning to watch games on television, all of which were broadcast live, mostly in the middle of the night Beijing time.

Over 20 per cent of respondents said they dated less during the Cup.

"People had a valid reason to show up late for work," the newspaper said. About 10 per cent said they dozed off at work and admitted work efficiency slacked.

Asked whether the nocturnal coverage had caused family rows, 15 per cent said family relations had improved thanks to the World Cup. Three-and-a-half per cent said they had worsened and the rest said there was no change.

An estimated 100 million Chinese, from top leader Deng Xiaoping down, watched the games, with the number even higher for the final. With China not taking part, the favourite teams were Brazil, Italy, Germany and Argentina.

Some World Cup highlights and lowlights

NEW YORK (AP) — While Brazil samba, Italy sulks. The World Cup moves on, leaving a trail of penalty kicks in its wake. And a few other things as well:

Best game — Brazil 3, Netherlands 2, in the quarter-finals, with all five goals coming in the second half.

Best goal — Saeed Ouwairan, who shredded the Belgian defence in carrying Saudi Arabia to a 1-0 victory.

Best clutch performance — Roberto Baggio, in rescuing Italy with two goals to beat Nigeria 2-1 in overtime in the second round.

Worst clutch performance — Roberto Baggio, whose blown penalty kick in the shootout allowed Brazil to win the World Cup.

Biggest flop — Colombia, ousted in the first round after being picked by Pele, among others, to win the title.

Biggest surprise — Bulgaria, a semifinalist after having failed to win a game in five previous World Cup trips. Honourable mention: Romania, Saudi Arabia.

Most deserving first-round loser — South Korea.

Best on-field gesture — the Brazilian trio of Romario, Bebeto and Zinho rocking a mock cradle in honour of Bebeto's newborn.

Worst on-field gesture — Germany's Stefan Effenberg, who responded to taunting fans with an extended finger and was thrown off the team by his coach.

Boldest team — Italy, which played a man short and yanked Roberto Baggio for a substitute in beating Norway.

Spain, U.S. sweep into Federation Cup 2nd round

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Spain and the United States, the top two seeds, and no. 13 Canada were the only teams to sweep their first-round Federation Cup matches Tuesday. Defending champion Spain, represented by Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, beat Chile 3-0, while Mary Joe Fernandez and Lindsay Davenport led the United States to a 3-0 victory over the Czech Republic. Rene Simpson-Alter and Patricia Hy took Canada to the 3-0 victory over Switzerland. There are two singles matches and one doubles match to account for the three available points in the annual 32-country competition.

Dreariest team — Norway, content to pack its defence and smack the ball skyward.

Best hair — Roberto Baggio (ponytail), Alexi Lalas (shock-red hair with goatee), Carlos Valderamma (blond fright wig).

Worst beverage — the "cocktail" of stimulants that resulted in the ban of Diego Maradona.

Best venue description — Swiss coach Roy Hodgson, who likened the steamy Pontiac Silverdome to "playing in a hotdog stand."

Best analysis of U.S. victory over Colombia — by U.S. defender Alexi Lalas, who said, "It's incredible, it's historical, it's very cool."

Best job at World Cup — the Bulgarian spokesman who refused to speak to reporters.

Best goalkeeper shirt — Mexico's Jorge Campos, whose incandescent jersey could illuminate caves.

Best official utterance from FIFA — by spokesman Guido Tognoni, who in denying Ireland's request for bottled water during play said, "The field is not a bar."

Best headline: "Betrayal" in Corriere Dello Sport after Italy lost to Ireland 1-0 in its opening game.

Best person to meet you at the airport — Cameroon Sports Minister Bernard Massoua, who flew to California with a suitcase stuffed with \$535,000 in cash to head off a players' strike.

Worst press corps to have on your plane — the Dutch.

Three times Dutch journalists disrupted the team's flight. First, their laptop computers played havoc on the navigation, sending the plane off course. Then, a writer became violently sick, forcing an emergency landing. Finally, a reporter joked about carrying a bomb, grounding the plane for five hours.

Best historical footnote — Russia's Oleg Salenko, who when asked about his five goals against Cameroon, said, "Record? What record?"

Best theological statement — Hristo Stoichkov, who after his country's semifinal loss said, "God was Bulgarian but the referee was French."

Best impersonation of Garbo (no, Garbo is not a Brazilian midfielder) — Nigeria, which closed its practice before a game, prompting its federation's president to say, "It is good to be mysterious."

Biggest rulerbook blunder — U.S. Soccer Federation, which failed to tell its players that separate yellow cards in first-round games result in a one-game suspension.

Most chilling commentary — "a big bug for everyone, and let me say it was a phenomenal experience, a rare one, which I've never felt before in my life. Until later, because life doesn't end here." — Andres Escobar, writing in a Colombian newspaper days before he would be shot to death apparently by his own-goal against the United States.

OVERHEARD AT

One of the most fashionable restaurants in Amman, has added yet another executive chef to head its team that specializes in Italian and European haute cuisine. A short form menu is now available in English, and is designed to allow guests a chance to chat with the waiter to order the desired choice of appetizers, salads, pastas, grill, and shrimps.

A distinguished guitar singer and player entertains guests nightly, except Fridays, as they dine in style in a quasitheatrical setting.

For the splendour and great food at *Al-Jawhara*, the Restaurant has had great success with what it considers as fair prices: JD 10 for lunch and JD 12 for dinner.

I overheard that *Al-Jawhara* has extended the bonus lottery tickets (free round trip to Rome on Royal Jordanian Airlines) for all diners at *Al-Jawhara* until the end of July, to allow more time for its clientele to take advantage of the bonus. The raffle will take place on Saturday 30 July 1994, evening, in public at *Al-Jawhara* Club Restaurant.

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Minimum six years working experience in secretarial/Admin capacity.
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Black leaders concerned about Simpson's case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Black leaders meeting with the Los Angeles district attorney expressed concern Tuesday that O.J. Simpson get a fair trial on charges he murdered his ex-wife and a male friend.

About 20 leaders met with District Attorney Gil Garcetti at the headquarters of the Urban League civil rights group here as issues of race began to take a more prominent place in the highly-publicized case.

Expectations that the defense will question whether police were motivated by racism in collecting a key piece of evidence against Simpson was raised over the weekend in an article published by the New Yorker magazine.

The lead lawyer for the former football star confirmed Monday he will try to show that police planted a bloody glove at Simpson's estate.

The glove, the prosecution's strongest evidence, matched one found June 12 a few miles away at the murder site of Simpson's former wife Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and her friend Ronald Goldman, 25, both of whom were also white.

"Race is not and will not be an issue in this defense. The only thing we are looking at is credibility of witnesses," Simpson's lawyer Robert Shapiro said Monday.

However, Shapiro plans to attack the credibility of detective Mark Fuhrman, who found the glove, on the basis of a 1983 lawsuit he filed against the city seeking disability pension on grounds that working in black and Hispanic neighborhoods had made him mentally unstable.

The Los Angeles Times also reported Monday that

Fuhrman was among a group of police officers being investigated for sexual harassment.

Fuhrman denied the allegation that he planted the glove.

"We want to make sure that there is equity and there is justice," said John Mack, president of the Urban League. "Our basic concern is that Mr. Simpson as any other individual, particularly in the African American community, receive fairness."

Mack emphasized that the jury selected in the case must reflect the racial and ethnic makeup of the city, which was rocked by riots in 1992 after an all-white jury acquitted Los Angeles police officers in the videotaped beating of motorist Rodney King.

"It is essential that O.J. Simpson be tried by a jury which is representative of the diversity of this city, including African Americans," Mack said.

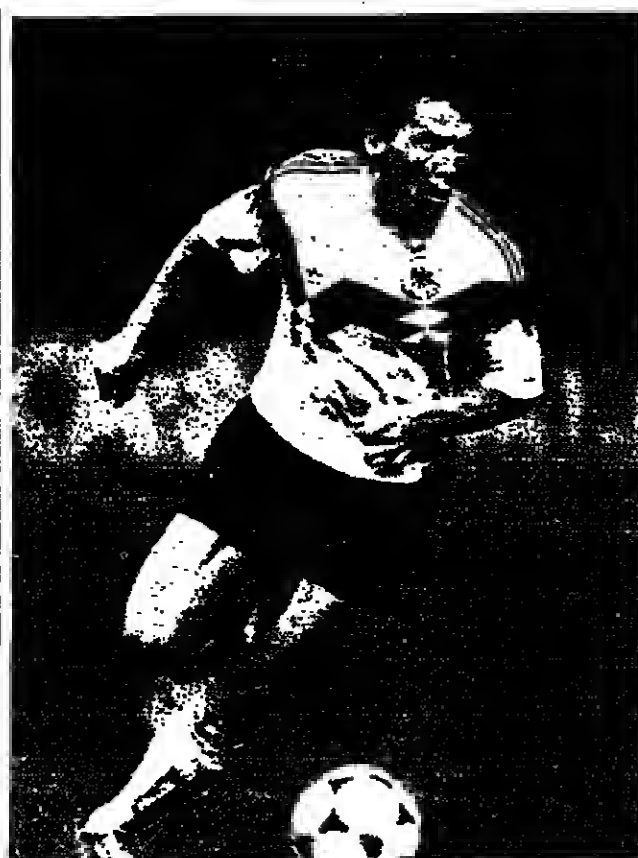
Garcetti, who has under fire from black leaders for portraying Simpson as guilty, acknowledged that the jury pool may have been "contaminated" by the massive publicity surrounding the case.

"It is a greater burden," he said, referring to the task of choosing 12 jurors able to the evidence without bias.

Mack warned that bias against inter-racial marriages could work against Simpson and declared himself to be "categorically opposed" to the district attorney seeking the death penalty in the case.

"In a racial context, there is no justification that would justify the death penalty," he said.

Simpson, 47, has pleaded not guilty to the double murder and is being held without bail.



Matthaeus hints he may quit

BONN (R) — German World Cup team captain Lothar Matthaeus has suggested he might quit in an acrimonious row with national trainer Berti Vogts, the sports magazine Sport Bild reported Wednesday.

In an interview with the magazine, Matthaeus said Germany's hapless title defense, which ended in a humiliating 2-1 defeat against unfavored Bulgaria, had floundered on a lack of trust between players and trainer.

"For 15 years I have tried to give everything," Matthaeus said. "But the way

things were run in the World Cup, I don't see why I should continue."

He said Vogts had told some players days before the Bulgaria game who would play. "I only found out about it by chance," said Matthaeus, capped 117 times for Germany. "So I have to assume that I was the wrong captain for him."

"I don't want to stress that I am the record national team player, but if he (Vogts) doesn't want to give me responsibility, if I feel that I am totally unimportant to him, then something has gone wrong."

Milan and Barcelona avoid each other in European club competitions

GENEVA (R) — AC Milan and Barcelona, who clashed in the European Cup final in May, avoided each other when the European Football Union (UEFA) made the draw for their club competitions Wednesday.

Milan, who won the final in Athens 4-0 for their fifth title and third in six years, were drawn in group four of the new four-group champions' league, the round robin stage of the European Cup, along with three times winners Ajax Amsterdam.

UEFA in December created an elite European Cup with eight teams seeded to go straight into the champions' league, to be played between September and December, while the next 16 highest ranked sides meet in preliminary round ties over two legs on Aug. 10 and 24.

The decision left the champions of most of the rest of UEFA's 47 full members with places in the expanded

UEFA Cup. Milan and Ajax will be joined by the winners of the preliminary round ties that pit Glasgow Rangers against Aek Athens.

Barcelona, winners in 1992 and twice losing finalists since 1986, were joined by 1968 champions Manchester United.

Bayern Munich — who like Ajax won the trophy Cup after an absence of four seasons — are in group two along with Spartak Moscow.

Paris St. Germain, champions of France after the five-year reign of disgraced of Hungary to qualify for group two.

Group three features Beofica, European champions in 1961 and 1962, and Anderlecht of Belgium. One of the other teams in the group could be 1986 winners Steaua Bucharest if the Romanians get past Servette of Switzerland in the preliminary round.

The European Cup reverts to knock-out stages from the March quarterfinals between the top two teams in each group. The semifinals are scheduled for April and the final for May 24 at a venue yet to be decided.

Just as the European Cup was streamlined to the UEFA Cup, won by Internazionale Milan for the second time last season, was expanded to accommodate a greater number of teams in a larger union following the break-up of Eastern Europe.

In the UEFA Cup preliminary round involving 27 ties, Bulgaria's Levski Sofia, who upset Glasgow Rangers in the first round of last season's European Cup, meet newcomers SCT Olimpija of Slovenia.

Two past winners of the European Cup Winners' Cup, Aberdeen of Scotland and Slovan Bratislava of Slovakia, were drawn away in

the first leg of the UEFA Cup Aug. 9. The return legs are Aug. 23.

Aberdeen, who won the Cup Winners' Cup and European Super Cup in 1983, meet Skonto Riga of Latvia, who took part in the European Cup last season.

Slovan, who took the same trophy in 1969 when they represented Czechoslovakia, clash with Portadown of Northern Ireland.

The Cup Winners' Cup, held by England's Arsenal, is unchanged though slightly enlarged with 12 preliminary round ties, one more last season.

Hungary's Ferencvaros, once regular entrants into Europe who won the fair cup — precursor to the UEFA Cup — in 1985, were drawn against diddled of Luxembourg, at home in the first leg Aug. 11 and away Aug. 23.

UEFA vows to press for five more berths

GENEVA (AP) — Buoyed by Europe's strong showing in the World Cup, the head of the continent's soccer authority vowed Tuesday to press for five extra berths for European clubs in the 1998 finals.

"Europe has shown in the USA World Cup its dominant position which is only challenged by South America," said UEFA President Lennart Johansson. "UEFA will ensure that Europe is

treated fairly."

There will be 32 teams competing in the next finals in France, up from 24 this year. Europe currently has 13 berths and UEFA's bid for five more will likely put it on a collision course with the rest of the world.

Asia, Africa and Latin America are clamouring for extra spots to give up-and-coming talent in developing countries a chance to shine. The world soccer authority,

FIFA, is sympathetic and the excitement generated by Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and South Korea in the United States will further boost their cause.

FIFA is expected to decide on berth allocations at a meeting in New York in October.

UEFA maintains that with the breakup of the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, it has many more national soccer squads and so is

entitled to extra slots.

Johansson, a Swedish national, described the U.S. finals as an "excellent European performance."

"We should be happy and proud about this, having seven teams among the final eight, knowing that eight players in the Brazilian team play in Europe you could say that it was an extended European championship," Johansson told journalists.

U.S. fans disappointed Lure barred from England

LEXINGTON, Kentucky (R) — U.S. horse racing fans were disappointed by the news Tuesday that the British government had refused a waiver to allow Lure to go to England and run in the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood later this month.

Lure, a premier five-year-old, twice won the Breeders' Cup and has earned more than \$2.4 million in U.S. races, but was barred from the Sussex Stakes July 27 because of strict European Community rules prohibiting the entry of horses testing positive for EVA, equine viral arteritis.

EVA is a disease which can make a mare abort and is hazardous to breeding farms. Lure had tested negative but was required to be vaccinated along with all other

horses going to Arlington in August 1993 when there was an EVA outbreak at the track. Vaccinated horses can test positive because of antibodies from the vaccine.

"Our refusal to permit the importation of Lure is not that we suspect him to be infected with the virus of EVA," British official Robert Bell told Lure's owner, Seth Hancock of Kentucky's prestigious Claiborne Farms, in a fax Tuesday.

The only way Lure could be admitted to England for the race was to be granted a waiver by the British government or export a semen sample that tested negative. Claiborne Farms felt it was not in Lure's best interest as a horse in training to go through semen sampling. Hancock requested a waiver

er and letters have been faxed back and forth between Kentucky and Britain for several days.

In his final plea, faxed July 17, Hancock said that "nine of the top 10 stallions in Great Britain and Ireland last year have direct ties to Claiborne-hatched horses."

Hancock wrote: "The American racing public frequently has the opportunity to watch top European horses compete when they are shipped here for races such as the Breeders' Cup and Arlington Million. The reverse, however, seems to occur less frequently."

After the final refusal, Hancock said: "I'm certainly disappointed but I don't have anything to do with running

international governments."

HORSE RACING

Annette Covault at Claiborne said the farm regretted but respected the British decision. "It's their ball game and we have to play by their rules," she said.

At the annual thoroughbred yearling sales in Keeneland, Kentucky, reaction was swift and tinged with a feeling of unfairness.

"It's a grave disappointment and setback for international racing," said Ted Bassett, Keeneland's chairman and president of the Breeders' Cup.

"There is in-depth research in the U.S. that shows that the vaccine is perfectly safe.

It seems strange that Lure competed against a number of European horses in two Breeders' Cups without serious consequence," Bassett said.

"What is the true danger, the hazard, the risk if Lure races? How are the Europeans put at risk with Lure racing when the scientific evidence is that EVA can only be transmitted venereally?"

Bassett added: "Would the North American breeders subject their prime stallions to the vaccine if there were any possibility of infecting mares and their subsequent foals?"

"It's a very sporting gesture of Seth Hancock's to send this champion colt to

race against the best in Britain and give fans there a chance to see this great horse."

"What I hope comes out of this disappointment is better communication between European health regulators and U.S. researchers, like those at the Gluck Centre here in Lexington, which is an international centre for equine research."

The British course would be a new challenge for an American horse. "It's hilly and it's grass," said Allen Kershaw, manager of Gainesborough Farms, a leading Kentucky farm. "The riding styles are different. It would have been very good for business."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANUJAH HIRSHI

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BUSINESS EDGES CONGRESS

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH

♠ A 9 5

♥ Q 7 6

♦ Q 3 2

♣ Q 9 8 4

WEST

♠ Q 4 2

♥ A 10 6

♦ Q 10 8

♣ K 10 9 8 7 5 4 6

* Void

* ♠ J 10 5 2

SOUTH

♠ K 7 3

♥ K 6 2

♦ A Q 4

♣ A K 7 3

The bidding:

East South West North

Pass 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♣

Pass 3 NT Pass Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

Corporate America, fielding a

team that included four players who

had won major championships,

waited until the last board to defeat

a squad representing Congress by 7

international Match Points. It was

the closest finish of the three annual

matches held so far.

Congress grabbed the lead on the

very first board. Sen. Hank Brown

(R-Colo.) and former Rep. Bob Kas-

tenmeier (R-Wisc.) reached three

no trump on the action shown.

Since the South hand was too strong

for a one-no-trump opening bid,

Kastenmeier started with one club,

then jumped to three no trump once

his partner showed enough to bid

voluntarily.

Rita Shugart, president of Mon-

terey Aircraft Co. made a valiant

effort by selecting fourth-best from

an unbid major as her opening salvo.

Declarer won the spade lead in hand

with the king and the fate of the

contract hinged on how the club suit

was tackled. If either defender held

a singleton honor, the correct way to

play the suit would be to cash the

ace and then, if an honor appears, to

eventually finesse the other defend-

er for the remaining honor. As the

cards lie, that would have failed and

the contract went down at the other

table.

Kastenmeier reckoned that be-

cause of the overall and opening

lead West was more likely than East

to be short in clubs. So at trick two

he led a low club to the queen. When

West showed out, it was a simple

matter to take two club finessses

through East and score two spades,

one heart, two diamonds and four

clubs.

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Aziz: U.S. wants Iraq sanctions for its own economic interests

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq has accused the United States of maintaining oil sanctions against Baghdad so it could prop up oil prices for Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, who in turn would continue buying major U.S. products.

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz told a news conference Tuesday that Washington was blocking any consideration to lift oil sanctions against his country for reasons that had little to do with a 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolution that links Iraqi exports to arms compliance.

He cited news reports, attributed to an unidentified U.S. official in Paris, saying that oil prices would drop substantially if Iraq came back on the market and that this was a key reason why Washington opposed lifting the embargo.

"The real issue is Saudi Arabia and Kuwait," Mr. Aziz said. "Saudi Arabia and Kuwait would like to keep the current level of (oil) production so they can continue paying the bills for contracts with American Telephone and Telegraph (ATT) and Boeing."

Iraq is expected to export three million barrels a day within 18 months after sanctions are lifted.

Mr. Aziz said that if Iraq came back into the market, it would respect the decisions by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) as it did before 1990 when sanctions were imposed. He said Baghdad, which has the world's second largest oil reserves, would continue that policy.

The U.N. Security Council agreed Monday to maintain a crippling economic embargo against Iraq after the United

States campaigned against any move to end the sanctions.

Diplomats speaking on condition of anonymity said no nation favoured the immediate lifting of sanctions, but some such as France and Russia want to acknowledge Iraq's cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors and show some flexibility.

The U.N. imposed a sweeping economic embargo after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, including an oil embargo. Conditions for lifting the oil embargo are separate from those for lifting the general trade sanctions.

Russia urged the council Tuesday to set a deadline for discussing lifting the oil embargo.

Iraq must first meet all the conditions of the Gulf war ceasefire, and U.N. officials said it could be spring before they could confirm that. The Gulf war ceasefire resolution says Iraq must declare, destroy and establish monitoring of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

The U.N. commission monitoring Iraq's weapons programme says Iraq has made major progress and is very cooperative.

Mr. Aziz attempted to refute, almost line by line, a speech U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright gave at Monday's closed-door Security Council session, saying she falsified Iraq's position and that she contradicted reports from U.N. officials praising Iraq's progress on dismantling weapons.

"If Iraq continues its cooperation with the council and sanctions continue to be imposed anyway, then why should Iraq continue working with the Security Council?"

he said, adding: "There is a paradox here."

About half the council wants to stick to the letter of the 1991 resolution which links the oil embargo to disarmament requirements. The United States, Britain and Oman interpret the resolution more broadly and first want to see a pattern of compliance.

But all members agree that Iraq has to recognise Kuwait and its borders before any action is taken on the oil embargo.

Asked if or when this would happen, Mr. Aziz said this might be done "in the coming weeks and months when Iraq is sure it is a real issue and that there isn't a hidden agenda."

Iraqi officials, questioned privately on recognition, would only say such a step would be taken "shortly" without giving a date.

The White House said Tuesday the United States has decided to maintain its economic sanctions on Iraq because of Baghdad's continued "activities hostile to United States' interests in the Middle East."

A statement issued in Boston by aides travelling with President Bill Clinton said the crisis between Washington and Baghdad has not been resolved.

"The government of Iraq continues to engage in activities inimical to stability in the Middle East and hostile to United States' interests in the region," the statement said.

Iraq remains a "continuing and extraordinary threat to the national security and vital foreign policy interests of the United States," the statement said.



HISTORIC VISIT: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who is also foreign minister, escorts Israeli Foreign Minister

Shimon Peres to the meeting hall of the Dead Sea Hotel on Wednesday (see page one) (AFP photo)

Jobless knock at Arafat's door

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Unemployed Palestinians gather daily outside Yasser Arafat's headquarters desperately hoping they might be given some work.

A few dozen press patiently outside the entrance of the Palestine Hotel on the Gaza city seaford where the president is in residence.

"I have looked for a job everywhere in Gaza," said Ali Zaed, 34, who lost his permit to enter Israel after a series of attacks on Israelis by Palestinians earlier in the year.

"Everything is taken. I just don't know what I'm going to do," said the father of a baby boy.

Unemployment has hit more than 50 per cent of the active population on the Strip where the annual per capita gross national product is only \$800, or 15 times less than in Israel.

Dozens of Gazans try each day to get past soldiers or a way through the border fences around the Erez checkpoint to reach Israel to earn a crust.

Hundreds protested violently last Sunday when Israel closed the crossing point and two Palestinians were shot dead and dozens wounded on both sides in the worst violence since autonomy began in May.

Mr. Arafat's return to lead the autonomous authority this month raised hope among the 800,000 population of a new start for Gaza.

But the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief admitted himself he came home with empty pockets.

"I am not a tribune," Mr. Arafat told Palestinians in Gaza City's Sheikh Radwan district on Tuesday. "I'll tell you the truth. My brothers we need a revolution. Roll up your sleeves. I'll be the first volunteer."

Yasir Amr, 45, listened carefully. "Arafat wants volunteers? Here we are. So where's the work," said the father of six who have been out of work for 18 months.

The construction worker has joined the crowd outside the Palestine Hotel, under the burning sun in the forlorn hope that the new "rais" will lead him out of misery.

Fifty-year-old Abu Wahid said his family was starving. "All that matters to me is to feed my children I don't give a damn about international aid," he said.

PLO preparing to convene PNC meeting in Gaza Strip

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is preparing to convene a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in the Gaza Strip soon, PLO sources said Wednesday.

They said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat planned to invite all living members of the 483-strong council to the meeting, the first after the PLO and Israel signed the historic autonomy accord in September.

One of the main tasks of the council will be to delete, parts of the charter of the PLO where it implicitly calls for the elimination of the state of Israel.

However, "it is also possible that the entire charter will be rewritten to absorb the realities of the developments in the Palestinian scene," said one source, referring to the self-rule accord with Israel which took effect on the ground in May.

Reports from Israel said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had agreed to allow all members of the PNC to enter the autonomous territories, but may not allow some of them to stay on after the meeting.

Mr. Rabin's agreement came in line with Israel's own desire to see the PLO charter

amended since the document is cited by his political opposition as a sign of the PLO's continued enmity towards the Jewish state.

Mr. Rabin was reluctant to allow in some PNC members whom Israel sees as "terrorists" into the territories, but relented when Mr. Arafat threatened not to convene the council at all without all members, the reports said.

"If the chairman of the PLO decides to convene the Palestine National Council in order to fulfill his commitment to change the Palestinian covenant, then we will let them come in," Mr. Rabin said last week. "Some we will certainly let stay, some we won't."

More than two-thirds of the 107-member Palestine Central Council (PCC), an intermediate body between the PNC and the PLO Executive Committee, have already received Israeli permission to enter the occupied territories. They are also members of the PNC.

PLO sources could not confirm suggestions in the media that Mr. Arafat wanted to proclaim the council also as the Palestinian legislature.

"No one exactly knows how Mr. Arafat plans to settle the status of the PNC in the new stage," said a PLO official. "Perhaps he might even de-

cide to scrap elections and name PNC members to the self-rule council."

That was a reference to a provision in the autonomy agreement under which the PLO should hold general elections to a self-rule council not later than July. However, since the beginning of the autonomy itself was delayed, the elections were said to have been delayed until October.

But October is also not a definite date, reports indicate.

In the meantime, Sheikh Abdul Hamid Sayeh, who submitted his resignation as speaker of the PNC, has been quoted as saying in the local press that his decision to quit the council stood and his opposition to the autonomy accord also was unchanged.

Technically, a full PNC session has to rule on the speaker's resignation, but Sheikh Sayeh, who is sick and bedridden, has not been attending office for at least three years now. His deputy, Salim Zanoun, is handling PNC business.

PLO sources in Amman said no final date was set for the council meeting. "There is a process of preparations under way, and once the logistics of the meetings are established, then a date would be set," said one source.

Kim Jong-Il's leadership proclaimed at memorial

SEOUL (Agencies) — North Korea's ruling elite vowed to uphold Kim Jong-Il as their new leader at a mass rally in Pyongyang on Wednesday to commemorate his father, President Kim Il-Sung.

But the official appointment of this enigmatic 52-year-old, as party chief and head of state, had to wait.

Mr. Kim, top ranked in the Workers' Party and supreme commander of the People's Army, made no speech, standing tightlipped and apparently emotionless before a hundred thousand military officers and civilians in the vast Kim Il-Sung Square.

To many Pyongyang-watchers, his silence — breaching Korean tradition that dictates the eldest son speak at his father's memorial — added to the political uncertainty surrounding the isolated state.

Vice-Premier Kim Yong-

Nam led with glowing tributes from military, party and civil representatives to the dead leader and his expected successor during the 75-minute memorial service in scorching, sultry weather.

Speaking on behalf of the junior Kim, he declared the senior Kim had "successfully solved the question of inheritance of leadership," according to Pyongyang's official KCNA news agency.

The entire party membership and people will "firmly defend the party central committee with comrade Kim Jong-Il at its center and uphold his leadership," said the vice premier, who is also foreign minister.

Kim Jong-Il stood silently on the podium, looking visibly thinner than before, according to North Korean television footage.

Although the junior Kim has been identified publicly

as successor, there has been no confirmation of a vote by the ruling party or the national assembly endorsing him in his father's posts of party leader and state president.

With the end of the mourning period for the "great leader," who died on July 8 reportedly of a heart attack at the age of 82, Pyongyang's headline communist leadership is widely expected to formalise the succession soon.

Kim Jong-Il, formerly known as "dear leader," also faces the daunting tasks of saving North Korea from bankruptcy, food shortages and international isolation due to its suspected nuclear arms programme.

"Millions of people" crowded different squares, streets, stadiums, gymnasiums and school playgrounds

(Continued on page 7)

Aden begins clean-up

ADEN (R) — A weary old man crouching in the middle of an Aden street sweeps dirt with a broken broom into a pile and scoops it by hand into a reed basket.

Nearby, one of Aden's 30 rubbish trucks stands idle, minus one wheel, while the sea of garbage round it grows ever bigger.

Almost two weeks after this southern Yemeni city fell to victorious northern government forces, the laborious job of clearing up the mess of two months of civil war and a week of systematic looting has begun.

The signs are that it might take a while.

Looters have stripped most government offices and large companies. Electricity supplies and telephone lines are still irregular, and the main post office is still firmly shut.

Those people who have offices to go back to are starting to return to work, but many others still spend hours queuing for water at makeshift or ancient wells in Aden mosques.

Water supplies are beginning to trickle by pipeline through to northern areas of Aden, but aid workers say the water is less than a quarter of the city's normal requirements.

They say untreated water is being sent through pipes damaged in the fighting. The little water which does reach Aden homes is often contaminated from dirt seeping in through broken sections.

Supplies will have to be cut again for the pipes to be repaired. Aid workers fear a repeat of incidents during the siege of Aden when they say desperate residents smashed sections of pipes in the hope of finding water.

Full restoration of water supplies will take months.

But at least, for the time being, we have security in Aden. Security is the top priority to help the emergency water distribution," one Red Cross official said.

Doctors in Aden say the limited water supply and collapse of Aden's sewage supply still pose a serious health danger.

" Astonishingly there has till now been no outbreak of cholera or typhoid, but the risk is still high," one doctor said.

Yemeni authorities belatedly imposed a night curfew on Aden three days ago, which appeared to help curb lawlessness. The government says police have now taken responsibility from the army but it is sometimes hard to spot the difference.

Major sacks 4 in cabinet reshuffle

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major, in a bold bid to boost his unpopular government's fortunes, sacked four cabinet ministers on Wednesday in the most sweeping reshuffle since he took power in 1990.

Mr. Major rang his ministers of education, transport and national heritage, as well as the government's spokesman in the House of Lords (upper house), on Tuesday night to tell them their cabinet days were over, officials said.

The top three in the cabinet — Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and Home Secretary Douglas Hurd and Home Secretary Michael Howard — were not affected by the changes.

But Mr. Clarke loses his two right-hand men, Michael Portillo and Stephen Dorrell, who have been in place since the Conservatives won a fourth successive election in 1992.

The shake-up is aimed at installing a more vibrant administration to face the challenge of a resurgent Labour Party opposition in the run-up to the next election, due by 1997.

Labour, 15 to 20 percentage points ahead in opinion polls, will elect a new leader on Thursday.

Tony Blair, who is 41 — 10 years younger than Mr. Major — and viewed as a major threat by the government, is not favourite to take over from John Smith, who died of a heart attack in May.

Most of those climbing the ministerial ladder are young

ministers who have impressed Mr. Major with their drive. Labour claims the government is "sleazy" and self-satisfied image, and say it is time for a change in British politics.

The Conservatives, in power since 1979, are unpopular among ordinary Britons because of recent tax rises, sex scandals and a feeling the government is no longer in control.

Mr. Portillo, a cabinet minister already as chief secretary to the treasury, is given a portfolio of his own, taking over from David Hunt as employment secretary.

The anti-European Portillo is regarded as Mr. Major's key rival for the leadership from his party's right wing. Mr. Dorrell takes over from sacked Peter Brooke as national heritage secretary dealing with the media and the new national lottery.

Mr. Hunt was reported to be upset that he was only offered the job as minister for the civil service, a sideways move at best. But official sources said they still regarded Mr. Hunt as a star of the future.

The major surprise is the plucking of Jeremy Hanley from a low-key post in the defence ministry — take over as chairman — the Conservative Party. Mr. Hanley will also sit as a minister without portfolio in cabinet, which will now number 23.

Mr. Major wanted to replace Norman Fowler, who resigned as party chairman last month, with someone more charismatic and popular with the disgruntled supporters of the ruling party.

Jailed Egyptian lawyers witness results of torture

CAIRO (AGP) — The imprisonment of two human rights lawyers has backfired on the government by giving them access to prisoners subjected to police torture in one of Egypt's most notorious jails.

Egyptian bar association members Gamal Abdul Aziz and Al Sayed Fathi, who were arrested on charges of acting against the government, described on their release from three weeks in jail the wounds seen on the bodies of fellow inmates.

They are now compiling a report on the human rights abuses they witnessed during their detention in Cairo's Al Torah prison for the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR), of which they are field workers.

"There is great breaching of the law in the rights of detainees," Mr. Fathi told AFP.

"They are subjected for many days to tough, horrible torture with the use of electric shocks, tying hands and blindfolding," he added.

Mr. Abdul Aziz and Mr. Fathi were arrested on June 14 for allegedly distributing anti-government leaflets. Both men told AFP they were framed.

The men said they saw six cases of torture during their imprisonment. Three detainees were dragged off into the night and returned days later with bloodied limbs.

The three others were detainees whose wounds had not yet healed when the lawyers arrived.

One torture victim, Abdul Ati Mohammad Karim, 23, told the men he was held in solitary confinement for about 20 days.

When he was returned to the cell he had to be supported by two other detainees. "His white galabiyah (robe) was red with blood," Mr. Abdul Aziz said.

Mr. Abdul Karim, who the lawyers say is accused of being a member of militant groups, bore the scars of electric shocks and cigarette burns on his face, arms, legs and his body's "sensitive parts," according to Mr. Abdul Aziz.

He told the men he was innocent and had been arrested while praying in a mosque in the province of Sohag, about 500 kilometres

south of Cairo.

"Not all those who are devout are guilty of (Islamic militancy)," Mr. Abdul Aziz said.

Detainee Montassir Hussein Ramadan, 21, seemed to have been forgotten, having been held for about 18 months on suspicion of being a member of the militant groups, both lawyers said.

His teeth had been broken and his gums were inflamed, the lawyers said. He told them policemen had beaten him on his mouth with a metal rod six months ago.

Mr. Montassir believed he was picked up because one of his neighbours, a suggested militant, was tortured into giving the names of all his main neighbours.

The lawyers believed in

Mr. Montassir's innocence. He liked to smoke, listen to the radio and watch TV," Mr. Fathi said, adding that he only prayed on Fridays, rather than five times a day.

But not all the detainees were innocent. Mr. Fathi said at least one prisoner confessed to murder in the name of Islam before being sentenced to death after a trial.

"He told me the story with happiness," Mr. Fathi said, but refused to give details.

Both lawyers said they were abducted in the street by several police officers. Mr. Abdul Aziz was yanked into a car by his tie, while a car cruised up beside Mr. Fathi and the chief officer told him to "get in quietly."

After hours of interroga-

cell in Al Torah with about 45 other men. Some were members of Muslim groups, both militant and non-militant, and others had been dragged in in a general police crackdown and forgotten, the men said.

Other allegations of torture for which the lawyers had no physical evidence are being investigated.

In its 1993 report, the EOHR blamed both the government and Muslim militant groups for the deterioration of human rights in Egypt, saying 14 people had died in prison from torture and ill-treatment.

The report also blamed the militants for the escalation of violence in Egypt, saying they were largely responsible for the 207 deaths in 1993.

COLUMN

George Burns hospitalised

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Comedian George Burns remained hospitalised for observation after slipping in a bathtub and cutting his head, a hospital spokesman said. The 96-year-old entertainer cancelled an engagement at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. He was to appear Thursday through Sunday, said his manager Irving Fein. Mr. Burns fell last Wednesday in his bathtub at home and cut his head, requiring two stitches. He was admitted Monday for observation at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre said hospital spokesman Ron Wise. "His doctor wants to conduct tests to insure there are no problems from his fall in a bathtub," said Mr. Wise.

27% of U.S. children are in 1 parent families

WASHINGTON (AFP) — More than one out of four children in the United States lived in one-parent households in 1993, a proportion rising to more than half for blacks, the U.S. Census Bureau said. "The rise in divorces and delay in first marriage are two of the major factors contributing to the growing proportion of children living with one parent," said bureau analyst Arlene Salter. For the population as a whole, 27 per cent of children lived in one-parent households in 1993, up from 12 per cent in 1970. The bureau said 57 per cent of black children lived with one parent last year compared with 32 per cent for Hispanic children and 21 per cent for whites. One of three children in one-parent households lived with a parent who had never been married, while 37 per cent lived with a divorced parent, the Census Bureau said. The number of children in such households living with their father rose from nine per cent in 1970 to 13 per cent in 1993.

Longest wooden bridge in Europe to be demolished

WARSAW (AFP) — The longest wooden bridge in Europe, crossing the Vistula at Wyszogrod northwest of the capital Warsaw, will be pulled down in 1996, the daily Zycie Warszawy reported. The 1,300-metre (4,200-foot) wooden bridge, with 49 arches, listed in the Guinness Book of Records, was reconstructed in 1947 after its destruction during World War II. But its conservation costs have become increasingly high, the newspaper said. A new bridge will be built with credits from the World Bank, the paper added.

Bandit queen becomes unarmed housewife

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's bandit queen, freed after 11 years in jail, has quietly married and slipped into domesticity, a news agency reported. Phoolan Devi disclosed her recent marriage to her sister's ex-husband, a real estate financier, in an interview with the United News of India. The 37-year-old farmer's daughter has moved into a three-bedroom apartment in an upscale New Delhi neighbourhood with her husband, Umer Singh, 32, and several relatives. The apartment was rented by the French publisher of her biography, the agency said. Ms. Devi was jailed without trial on 70 counts of extortion, kidnapping and murder. Her killing of 22 villagers to avenge the death of her lover and her own torture made her a heroine of India's poor. A film based on her life was shown at international film festivals this year. Freed five months ago, the bandit who rode horses with a rifle slung over her shoulders now frequents beauty parlours to have her hair styled and dresses in feminine pink. United News said. But she still wants her gun back to defend herself against the relatives of her victims. "There are people who want me dead," she said. Her police guard was withdrawn this month, the agency said, and now she has applied for a licence to carry a weapon. "If they refuse, I shall go to court," she said.

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